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Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi told a Paris television correspondent that the four suspects in the UTA aircraft bombing "might" go to France for trial. Adding that the suspects themselves said they are "willing to go to France," al-Qadhdhafi differentiated between the UTA suspects and those in the Lockerbie case, saying that "those accused by the Americans are not responsible. They are mere citizens." The Libyan investigator in the Lockerbie case said he will hold an "open investigation session with the two Libyans accused," JANA disclosed. Expressing the hope that "all industrialized countries will follow the example of the United States," al-Qadhdhafi praised a U.S. decision to reduce production of materials that damage the ozone layer, the agency reported.

Algeria

The "Afghans" group attacked a naval facility, Algiers radio reported, adding that three people were killed in the subsequent clash. An Interior Ministry statement reported by the radio said security forces are "firmly continuing their work to seek out and destroy all the terrorists." Prime Minister Ghozali denied reports that he intends to resign and about differences between him and the chairman of the Higher State Council, in a statement to the London paper AL-HAYAT and reported by the radio. Ghozali added that his is currently at work on an economic revitalization program, the radio continued.

Iraq

The Istanbul paper HURRIYET carried the fifth and last installment of its interview with Saddam. In it, he suggested a multilateral meeting to solve the Kurdish question, saying that the Kurds could do as they wish as long as they agree among themselves. Saddam called for the ouster of the Poised Hammer forces, in whose place Iraq and Turkey would jointly establish security in the area, and reiterated the economic benefits Turkey would enjoy once the UN trade sanctions are lifted. Noting the contributions that could be made by the Turkish prime minister, Saddam concluded by saying that Iraq is open to reconciliation with the international community. In his recap of the interview, the Turkish journalist remarked on Saddam's "flexible" approach, which he said was reflected in the president's words. Deputy Prime Minister 'Aziz spoke extensively on Baghdad television regarding the role of the USSR in the approach to and during the Gulf war; the "text" of his remarks was transmitted by INA. Elsewhere, a UN inspection report that found no evidence of a "missing" nuclear reactor has "exposed American slanders" about the country, according to an article in AL-THAWRAH and reported by INA.

Israel

Jerusalem Mayor Kollek "denounced the remarks of a high-level U.S. official" who said that building in Jerusalem is equivalent to building in the West Bank, Jerusalem radio reported. Kollek told the radio that a freeze on construction in Jerusalem would lead to land seizures by both sides, and said he "will probably" raise the issue of a freeze with Secretary of State Baker.

Tunisia

Interviewed by the London paper SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI, the interior minister praised the "corrective action" currently in progress in neighboring Algeria, and reiterated that he will have no dialogue with outlawed fundamentalist Ghannouchi.

Sudan

A reshuffle of national and local ministers was reported by Omdurman radio, which also broadcast the names of Transitional National Council members. The envoy to Algeria denied reports about the existence of fundamentalist "training camps," MAP reported; an article in the Cairo paper ROSE AL-YUSUF had examined what it called "al-Jihad training camps" in the country.

Palestinian Affairs

A commentary by Algiers Voice of Palestine attacked the "misleading cheap media campaign waged" by CNN against Yasir 'Arafat. The PLO representative in Paris, whose remarks also were cited, said the move was aimed at covering up "Israeli procrastination" in the peace talks, the radio added.

Palestinian Affairs

'Cheap Media Campaign' Against 'Arafat Assailed

LD1302212992 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the misleading cheap media campaign, fabrications, and provocation waged yesterday by the U.S. television network CNN was aimed at (?the leadership) of brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. This campaign, despite its dark hatred of our leader and our people, revealed the extent to which the media are hostile to our people and lie in wait for our legitimate leadership. They spread vitriolic talk and lies with the aim of harming our people and their legitimate rights at a time when these rights have been receiving the attention of the international community, although this attention has been absent and left aside for well over four decades.

What attracts attention is that this cheap campaign, particularly at this time, against our legitimate leadership after the crisis which was fanned by the forces hostile to our people in France—concerning the presence of Dr. George Habash in France for medical treatment—is aimed at creating another crisis. This would be used to incite French and world public opinion against our people and its legitimate leadership with the aim of halting any international attention to the Palestinian issue. This is after our negotiators, on whom God had bestowed political prowess and an ability to confront and place Israel in an embarrassing corner, (?presented) the Palestinian case.

The case was made very clear through the unchanging stand put forward by our negotiating delegation in the multilateral negotiations. Our negotiators insisted they would not participate without a clear and frank representation of the Palestinians who live abroad and in Jerusalem.

Brother Ibrahim al-Sus, the PLO representative in Paris, refuted the statement attributed by the U.S. television station to president 'Arafat and himself. He said those statements were some kind of exposed media (?utterances that sank to the lowest level) to distort the Palestinian issue and to cover up for Israeli procrastination at the current negotiations.

While we say we are confident that the French friends fully understand the aims and objectives of this malice which seeks to pour fuel on the fire and disturb the clear French-Palestinian relations after they survived the recent crisis when Paris played host to Dr. George Habash, we ask the French friends once again to be vigilant against falling in the web of propaganda which is hostile to our leader and our people. We stress our desire to (?promote and strengthen) Palestinian-French relations in the interests of the two (?friendly) peoples.

'Arafat Addresses UN Human Rights Committee

LD1302215492 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Address by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva on 13 February—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Negotiations are now taking place between the United States and Israel, and even with Germany, regarding billions of dollars in loans to help Israel complete its crimes, including the devouring of the Arab and Palestinian territories and the building of illegal settlements, as well as totally ignoring the international will and the resolutions of international legitimacy and depriving the Palestinian people of their simplest human and lawful rights including the right to self-determination. This in fact subjects the peace process which started in Madrid last year to subversion and pushes the Middle East region to instability and a dangerous explosion. In this connection we received with great satisfaction the recent statement made by Mr. James Baker linking the loans process with the halting of settlement building since the latter infringes upon U.S. policy regarding the peace talks. We hope that this American attitude will continue.

Mr. Chairman: The world has shown interest in the outcome of the deteriorating situation in our region. This interest was reflected in the numerous resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly which included the laying down of the firm bases of a permanent and just solution for the question of Palestine and the establishment of peace and security in the region. The General Assembly went further than that: Through the special committee concerned with the Palestinian people's exercising their inalienable rights, the UN General Assembly adopted resolutions that define the mechanism for reaching such a solution, which depends on enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their firm rights, at the forefront of which is the right to self-determination over their own national soil. At that time, however, this hit the Israeli obstacle of rejection and a U.S. veto. But despite all that, the PLO has dealt positively with all goodwilled international initiatives to establish peace in the region. Our National Council declared the Palestinian peace initiative in 1988 in Algiers, and I announced it in the name of the Palestinian people at the UN General Assembly in late 1988 in Geneva as an expression of our commitment to the just peaceful solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Proceeding from this background, we welcomed and dealt with the Egyptian 10-point peace initiative, and the five points of Mr. James Baker. But regrettably, we were surprised by the severance of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue at that time, as well as the Israeli rejection of these initiatives. Then there was the Gulf crisis and the Gulf war which took the region by storm, and still does, in which our Palestinian people were the biggest losers, whether with regard to the Palestinian community that

lived in Kuwait and the huge losses the latter sustained, or our people inside the occupied territories. Despite all that we welcomed the initiative launched by President George Bush on 6 March 1991 before the U.S. Congress, and we—as well as our Arab brothers—dealt with the efforts of Mr. Baker during his visits to the region. It should be known to all that by those actions we facilitated for him these efforts in view of the Israeli intransigence and rejection, and the American bias toward and care for the Israelis. Our Palestine National Council adopted its positive and significant resolution at its latest session last year in Algiers, a matter which facilitated the convening of the peace negotiations in Madrid and then in Washington, and more recently in Moscow—the bilateral as well as the multilateral negotiations.

Here I would like to ask world public opinion a question: Does any party have the right to impose the names of its own co-negotiators, as the case is now in connection with the Israeli veto, which is backed by America, on the members of the Palestinian delegation? [passage omitted] The bilateral negotiations are still wandering aimlessly in the whirlpool of the Israeli obstacles. They did not take one step toward the crux of the matter because of these obstacles. The multilateral conference began its work in Moscow in the absence of the main parties of the conflict as well as the United Nations. This stumbling by the peace process, whether at the the level of the bilateral or the multilateral negotiations, was something expected in view of the continuation of Israeli practices against our people, and the continuation of the Israeli occupation of our land, as well as the violation of international resolutions and agreements, and in view of the conditions which Israel is trying to impose at both levels of the negotiations—one-sided conditions relating to the Israeli views on the peace process—views which are not shared by anybody else because they are conditions which are apt to keep the explosive situation as it is.

Land, in Israel's view, was occupied by means of military force and aggression. It then became, in its eyes, a property of Israel upon which they have settlements and military programs with military force. Israel is seeking a peace which ensures land, peace, and security for it without giving one single thing in exchange or expressing its will to withdraw from the territories which it has occupied by military force. Furthermore, it is evading negotiations for elections to gain more time. Then, the United States, the major force in the supervision of the conference, will in its turn enter elections, and Israel will also gain more time from these elections to evade the peace process, and to evade Bush's initiative consisting of land for peace and the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people in conformity with international legitimacy and resolutions, and security and peace for all in the region.

The least we could say to the Israeli Government and its attempts to make the political peace process fail—and we are joined in this rejection by all who love peace and freedom—is that we cannot accept the de facto situation Israel is trying to impose. Our people rejects the Israeli occupation and its conditions and attempts to break the unity of our people. It is committed to true peace based on international justice, legitimacy, and resolutions. Our people is one people outside the homeland in dispersion and inside the homeland in Palestine and Jerusalem.

Mr. Chairman, it must be clear that we have decided to deal with the political peace settlement which started in Madrid last October out of our faith in the necessity of reaching a just and comprehensive solution of the conflict in our region, which has been going on since 1948, based on international legitimacy, the principles of international law, and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 related to the Israeli withdrawal from the Arab and Palestinian occupied territories including holy Jerusalem, in addition to the UN resolutions related to the rights of the Palestinian people, especially its right to free self-determination. Any transitional period must be short, limited, and under international supervision. Besides, sufficient international protection must be secured for our people so that it is able to exercise its right to self-determination and to hold fair elections away from the weapons of the forces of occupation, their tyranny, crimes, and aggression. The Namibian example of a solution can constitute good grounds in this context to achieve the freedom, independence, and sovereignty of our people over its land and sacred things until the achievement of the Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, in conformity with the resolutions of our national councils, between Jordan and Palestine, on the basis of the willing and free choice of the two brotherly peoples.

Mr. Chairman, I declare before your esteemed committee—the Human Rights Committee, the conscience of mankind—that the national rights of the Palestinian people are sacred rights, just like the rights of all peoples of the world. Because these rights have been violated and ignored, grueling wars took place in the Middle East. Peace will prevail when the Palestinian people regain their rights. War begins in Palestine and peace prevails from Palestine. Let efforts be united for the sake of peace based on right and justice, and perhaps then we will reach a day in which the world will live away from the shadow of wars, destruction, and death. Our people love peace, and their entire struggle for decades now has been for peace in the Holy Land—the land of peace, Palestine. Our children have the right to live free and secure on their free and secure land just like all other children of the world. Our children just like their children have the right to live in just and comprehensive peace under the new world order. We do not want our children to be the fuel and price for this new world order. Allow me to end my address with what our lord Jesus Christ said: Let the children come to me. Thank you.

Abu-Sharif on Linkage Between Talks, Guarantees

JN1302205592 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1938 GMT 13 Feb 92

["Today's Guest" program]

[Text] Today's guest is Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine.

Our London correspondent Huda al-Husayni asked him about the bilateral negotiations and the Palestinian stand on them.

[Begin recording] [Abu-Sharif] The next round of bilateral negotiations are supposed to be held in Washington on 24 February. This will be on the agenda of the Palestinian leadership for careful discussion, especially in light of the serious developments in the occupied Palestinian territory and in view of the current talk about the possibility of the United States granting the Israeli Government loan guarantees with the value of $10 billion.

[al-Husayni] If you decide to participate in the negotiations, will you go there with the same delegation that attended the Madrid talks?

[Abu-Sharif] It is too early to talk about certain participation. As I have told you, the conditions in the occupied territories are very serious because of the ominous escalation in the Israeli measures against our people there, in terms of increasing systematic terrorist violence against our people and our detainees, confiscating land, and occupying Arab homes. Moreover, the issue will be very (?greatly) connected with the U.S. Administration's decision on loan guarantees, which we are certain will help build more settlements in the confiscated Palestinian land.

[al-Husayni] How are you proposing to counter the confiscations of land and houses and prevent the United States from extending these loan guarantees?

[Abu-Sharif] First of all, we rely mainly on our heroic people in the occupied territories. We are certain that every Palestinian will defend his house to the death, that he will not allow any settler, even if armed, to occupy his home before this Palestinian tries to save this part of Palestine with his blood. On this occasion, we call on all Palestinians to step up the confrontation and prevent any Israeli settler from occupying their homes, even if they carry a court order. Such a court is a court of occupation and because this occupation [word indistinct] is a racist, colonialist, and repressive occupation. We ask everyone to defend their property to the death. For our part, we will struggle by all means until we reach—through the United Nations, specifically the UN Security Council—a mechanism to apply the Geneva agreement on human rights and implement UN resolutions to stop the building of settlements so that the peace process will be completed by ending the Israeli occupation forever.

[al-Husayni] Have you been in contact with humanitarian organizations, given that killing through interrogation by torture has begun?

[Abu-Sharif] The Israeli crimes put to shame any state in the world. These crimes are abominable. They are being committed by the government through what it calls legitimate decisions. For us, these decisions are systematic and official terror against people who have been under occupation for a quarter of a century. Yes, we are in contact with all the international organizations and bodies that defend human rights. A conference on human rights will soon be held in Geneva. We will be active at that conference. Moreover, we are in contact with the EC, the United States, the Russian Federation, and with many other states in the world on what is taking place in the occupied territories. We are certain that the escalation of the systematic Israeli terrorist violence will not continue because the world will stand by the Palestinian people.

[al-Husayni] Last question. Do you believe that during this year, the [words indistinct] you will be able to reach a solution in the peace negotiations, or that this year will be a year for Israeli and U.S. elections?

[Abu-Sharif] The Israeli and U.S. elections will undoubtedly affect the pace and speed of the peace process, but will certainly not stop it. I would like to add, however—and this is to our people in the occupied territories—that the more we increase our resistance to occupation and the more steadfast we are in resisting the confiscation of land and homes; the more we confront the occupation troops—and I ask them to do so as much as possible—the closer the day of a solution, the day of [word indistinct] will be. [end recording]

OPEC Affairs

Iraqi Says Sacrifice Needed for Cartel Cohesion

JN1402111192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Geneva, 14 Feb (INA)—Iraqi Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti has said proposals to reduce OPEC's output in significant quantities are not receiving an immediate response from certain OPEC members. In a statement to an INA correspondent in Geneva, the oil minister declined to name these countries. However, he said that in the meantime, all members states are trying to arrive at a production level that would help improve prices.

He described the atmosphere at the current talks in Geneva as serious and very sensitive. He added that a sacrifice is required to maintain the organization's cohesion and to lend credibility to its position.

He said the current OPEC conference in Geneva may have a great influence in maintaining the organization's strength and cohesion. Otherwise, he said, the organization will be a mere facade without credibility or influence in the world market.

Algeria

More Clashes, Unrest Reported Throughout Country

'Brief Clash' Near Algiers Mosque

LD1402114392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Here is a news item which has just been reported by APS: A brief clash took place this morning at Martyrs Square in Algiers between a group of persons who were gathered near the Katchaoua mosque and elements of the National People's Army. It is not known so far whether this clash resulted in casualties or not.

Soldiers Fired On; Child Wounded

NC1402121292 Paris AFP in English 1136 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Algiers, Feb 14 (AFP)—A child was wounded when gunmen fired on soldiers deployed to prevent a march by Muslim fundamentalists here Friday, witnesses said.

The soldiers were standing guard at Martyrs Square, the final destination of the march called by the Islamic Salvation Front. Immediately after the shooting an ambulance sped from the scene flanked by police motorcyclists.

The unidentified attackers fired from alleyways near the square, and the soldiers immediately took up combat positions.

Witnesses said the wounded child was around seven years old.

'Bloody Showdown' Expected

NC1402085092 Paris AFP in English 0831 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Algiers, Feb 14 (AFP)—Algiers braced Friday for a bloody showdown between the security forces and Islamic fundamentalists bent on holding a banned protest march after weekly prayers.

More than 50 people died and 200 were injured when violence erupted across the country after Friday prayers last week.

The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) called the march to protest the "political piracy" of the army-backed High State Council, which seized power last month and canceled legislative elections that were certain to have been dominated by the FIS. The council declared a state of emergency Sunday.

The streets of the capital were calm early Friday, with a low key police presence along the planned route of the march. However, dozens of heavily armed para-military police were gathered at a junction near the march's planned departure point, May 1 Square.

The march would take the protesters along a wide boulevard on the sea front, but many people here doubted if it would be allowed to start.

The 2 km (1.2 mile) route would take the protesters from the edge of one fundamentalist bastion—the working class district of Belcourt—to another, Bab el-Oued.

Islamic sources said the organizers planned to put women and children at the front of the march in a challenge to the security forces. The call was signed by Abderazak Radjam, one of the few remaining FIS leaders to have escaped arrest.

The fundamentalists would hold a "prayer of the dead" before beginning the march.

Tension has built up here all week, with a series of attacks on the security forces, and the arrest of a man on Thursday who allegedly planned to blow up the city's main post office.

The Interior Ministry warned the population on Thursday of possible terrorist attacks by so-called "Afghans", Algerian veterans of the Afghan war.

A group of "Afghans" killed six policemen in the Casbah here on Monday, only hours after the state of emergency was announced.

Despite the authorities' attempts to stifle the FIS, its underground organization has managed to issue calls for its supporters to go ahead with the Friday protest, including putting up posters at mosques which were quickly ripped back down again by the police.

No Confirmation of FIS March

LD1402091292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] No quarter has confirmed or denied the report that the march called for by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and scheduled for today, 14 February, will (?take place).

The announcement of this march was accompanied by various rumors which have had an impact on public opinion. An atmosphere of general anxiety has been noted, particularly in the wake of the attacks faced by security men in the last few days and in light of the fact that most political figures and associations have declined to express a clear stance on these dangerous developments.

Man Held in Bid To Blow Up Post Office

LD1402093392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] National television, quoting police sources, announced that a man in possession of explosives was arrested near the Admiralty yesterday. According to the same sources, he was intending to plant the explosives inside the central post office of the capital.

Six Killed in Barracks Attack

LD1302132992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] We have learned from police sources that an attack in which knives were used took place at dawn this morning at the Admiralty Barracks in Algiers. There are six victims. They are soldiers. The attackers fled in a [word indistinct] van.

Security Sources Deny Report

LD1302165292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Security sources at the National Gendarmerie Command have denied a report that was disseminated regarding the killing of six soldiers by unknown elements at the Admiralty headquarters this morning. In a telephone contact, the sources stated that the report is not true.

The sources pointed out, however, that a group armed with automatic weapons, led by a person known as Djamal el Afghani, attempted an attack in order to seize the naval maintenance center situated in the harbor of the capital near the Algerian Navy Command headquarters.

The security sources said that the reaction of personnel at the center led to the killing of two persons among the aggressors, including Djamal el Afghani, the leader of the gang, whose real name was Djamal Ahmine; he was 31 years old.

After a chase, a national security patrol succeeded in arresting four people among the aggressors. Two policemen were injured. The weapons that were in the possession of the gang were recovered.

The same sources stated that attack by these elements on the naval maintenance center led to the killing of a soldier who was on guard at the center.

Gendarmes Fire on Two 'Attackers'

LD1402111792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] APS, citing national gendarmerie command sources, reports that two people tried to climb the national gendarmerie building's wall at (?Aine el Kachba), Oum el Bouaghi Province, at 2100 today. The same source said that the gendarmes opened fire on the two attackers, wounding one and arresting the other after chasing him.

Security Forces Pursue 'Terrorist' Groups

LD1302175592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Statement by the Ministry of Interior and Localities on 13 February—read by announcer]

[Text] Rumors are circulating to the effect that armed elements belonging to the Afghans group and the Takfir (wa'l Hijrah [Repudiation and Renunciation] movement are trying to infiltrate the masses of the people. These terrorist groups, which have surfaced during these days, are also trying to carry out sabotage operations and armed attacks on the security services with the purpose of creating chaos and anxiety among the people. The security services are firmly continuing their work to seek out and destroy all the terrorists. The Ministry Interior stresses that the security services are certain of the responsibilities entrusted to them at this important stage and are determined to carry out their mission with all courage and devotion, to guarantee security and stability, and protect public interests and individual freedoms. The ministry urges all citizens to be alert, and avoid assemblies and gatherings that could be exploited by elements hostile to the nation to carry out terrorist actions.

Report on Port Attack

LD1302190192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] The security forces are continuing their task of maintaining public order. The operation of maintaining public order is continuing, but from time to time incidents or isolated acts disturbing public order are reported. An attack carried out today at 0300 against a naval repair establishment in the Algiers port left three dead and two injured—Hacene Dafir.

[Dafir] Yes, Mouloud Belabdi, a group of Afghans [Algerians who fought in Afghanistan] whose number is still unknown carried out an attack at 0300 against a naval repairs establishment located in the Algiers port. Armed with automatic weapons, the group was led by a certain Amani Mourad, a 31-year old resident in Algiers, in Husein Dey, well known as Mourad el Afghani. The response of the port guards left two dead among the aggressors, including Mourad el Afghani himself, while two others were arrested. A patrol of the national security services which chased the aggressors who attempted to escape in a van managed to arrest two others; two security men were injured during the chase. A post guard was also killed during this attack. Finally three weapons, a machine gun and two automatic guns used by the aggressors during the attack were seized by the forces of order.

Roundup on Unrest, Arrests

LD1403092192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] The national gendarmerie command announced that four bearded men armed with automatic submachine guns attacked a couple in their car in Hammam Melouane, east of Blida, yesterday afternoon. The source added that the assailants left the woman on the spot and kidnapped the man before escaping toward Chrea. Moreover, seven were arrested in Birkhadem on 9 February

and 32 others in Larba. They were all accused of gathering and disrupting traffic. On the same day, 16 people implicated in the incidents at Fouka, which resulted in the death of one gendarme, were also arrested. A total of 31 people were arrested and referred to the prosecution in Tiaret on 10 February. They were charged with provoking behavior and gathering. Six other people were arrested in Bordj el Menaiel charged with carrying weapons, and another person was charged with desecrating graves. The presidents of the Municipal People's Assemblies in Fouka and Douaouda have also been referred to the prosecution. Biskra security forces arrested over 100 people suspected of involvement in last Friday's incidents. The security forces have indicated that one of the arrested people was wearing a military uniform and carrying a knife. These people have been charged essentially with gathering illegally and inciting to breach public order.

Ghozali Denies 'Differences' With Ruling Body

LD1302133792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] In a statement published in AL-HAYAT today, Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali denies rumors about his resignation and about differences with the Higher State Council, which chaired by Mohamed Boudiaf.

He states that there are no foundations for reports in this connection. Telephoning the same paper from his office, where he has isolated himself so as to prepare a program to reactivate the Algerian economy which he will submit to the Higher State Council, he indicated that he had evidence proving that reports on differences and on his resignation were mere rumors.

Asked about the resignation of Tedjani Haddam from the Higher State Council, Ghozali replied that Haddam himself has denied this is a statement issued in Algeria, in which he stressed that the reports were no more than groundless rumors.

Ghozali indicated that he is currently preparing a program to revive the economy. He described this as very urgent, in light of the financial and economical crisis that the country is experiencing.

Foreign Minister Departs for Lisbon

LD1302143392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi left Algeria today for the Portuguese capital Lisbon on a one-day working visit.

During this visit Lakhdar Brahimi will conduct talks with Portuguese government officials on the bilateral relations and ways of developing relations with the EEC. It should be noted that Portugal is currently the president of the EEC.

Reiterates Commitment to Pluralism

LD1302205292 Lisbon RDP Antena 1 Radio Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] The Algerian minister for foreign affairs stated today in Lisbon that the return to democracy in Algeria is certain. Lakhdar Brahimi explained the recent measures taken in his country and said that the Algerian authorities could not allow the return to the Middle Ages with the fundamentalists. Lakhdar Brahimi underlined that Algeria remains committed to a pluralistic system.

During a meeting with Joao de Deus Pinheiro, the Algerian minister asked his Portuguese counterpart for EC aid towards the recovery of the Algerian economy, which is an indispensable condition to end the disturbances Algeria is going through.

Municipal, FIS Officials Arrested in Setif

LD1302135592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Excerpt] In Setif, in implementation of the decree on the announcement of the state of emergency, the chairman of Setif village [wilaya] council and that of the National People's Assembly were arrested. For more details, here is our correspondent in Setif, Faysal Ghamis

[Ghamis] Two days ago the examining prosecutor at Setif Court examined the case of 59 persons who had been arrested following last Friday's [7 February] incidents. Following their interrogation, it was decided to sentence 22 persons under temporary imprisonment, while the rest benefited from temporary release.

Among those sentenced to temporary imprisonment are two deputies of the chairman of Setif municipality and one official from the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] bureau in Setif wilaya. They were charged with incitement for gathering, armed gathering, and the destruction of public property. The prosecutor general of the republic indicated that nine suspects are still on the run.

Regarding the imprisonment of the chairman of the Wilaya People's Council and the chairman of Setif municipality, judicial sources have indicated that this measure was exceptional and preventative, which falls within the implementation of the state of emergency decree. [passage omitted: tense atmosphere in Setif University but no disturbances have been reported as yet, exams will go ahead as planned next Saturday]

FLN Leader Urges Boudiaf To Promote Dialogue

LD1202103192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri, the secretary general of the National Liberation Front Party, FLN, has sent a message to Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, in which he stressed to the latter the need for opening a broad national dialogue, and

reliance on the wide popular will to bypass the fundamental issues in the country which are still looking for solutions since the events of October 1988.

Parties React to State of Emergency

LD1202192192 Algiers APS in English 1315 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] 12/02/92 (APS)—The proclamation on Sunday of the state of emergency keeps arousing reactions of various political parties and civil partnership.

The Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights (LADDH) voiced on Tuesday "its refusal for the carrying on of the diabolical cycle of violence and repression that gangrene the society, make the law of jungle emerge and leave nothing but orphans and disabled."

The Movement for Youth and Democracy (MJD) declared itself against "the instoration [as received] of the state of emergency for 12 months" for it considered "one could not build democracy under the threat of the bayonet". MJD also voiced "its support of the ban of all parties whose programmes are based on religious foundations".

As for the National Democratic and Socialist Party (PNDS), it "welcomes the setting up of the state of emergency to re-establsh civil peace without any despotism nor overtakings". It also called upon all parties "to unite around a common accord in the prospect of finding out a solution to intolerance.

Moreover, the National Committee for the Safeguard of Algeria (CNSA) noted "with satisfaction and interest, the firm will shown by the power to re-establish the state authority and preserve civil peace within the respect of individual and collective liberties and rights". The CNSA "again notes that political parties did not denounce these acts of terrorism as if the current situation in Algeria were subject to a settling of scores between the power and forces that are inspired and/or led by the Islamic Front of Salvation.

The Movement for Justice and Development (MAJD) considered the setting up of the state of emergency to re-establish order and ensure a better guarantee of the security of goods and persons is not the only solution to the multidimensional crisis Algeria exhibits. To MAJD the solution lies within dialogue and the moralization of political life.

Egypt

Musa Returns From Saudi Arabia, Comments on Talks

NC1302075892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his delegation returned to Cairo from Saudi Arabia last night after leading Egypt's delegation to the two-day meeting of the Higher Egyptian-Saudi Joint Committee.

In a statement upon arrival, Musa said the Higher Egyptian-Saudi Joint Committee had taken clear and practical measures to consolidate economic and trade ties and joint ventures between the two countries. He noted that cooperation between Egypt and Saudi Arabia is very important. He said that consultations were held on a number of political issues of common interest, especially the peace process, the situation in the Middle East, and Arab ties.

Musa affirmed that the peace process is essential and Egypt supports it. Egypt believes that negotiations are the way to reach a solution which is acceptable to all the parties, based on the principle of land for peace. He said that Egyptian policy is moving firmly toward supporting the negotiations.

Musa said that the next meeting of the Damascus Declaration states in Doha will review the positions of signing states on implementing the declaration's provisions. Specific proposals will be submitted.

On relations with Iran, he affirmed that Egypt does not object to holding a dialogue with the Iranians.

On Egypt's efforts to check the current crisis between the United States and Libya, Musa said that Egypt wants to balance two things: The safety of the Libyan people and the safeguarding of their rights and a firm and explicit stand against terrorism.

Musa described the situation in Somalia as very regrettable and explained that tribal conflict goes on with no consideration for Somalian unity.

More on Results of Musa Visit to Turkey

NC1202171292 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 Feb 92 pp 1, 12

[By Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hadi in Ankara]

[Text] Upon the conclusion of his visit to Ankara yesterday, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his Turkish counterpart Hikmet Cetin signed a joint statement emphasizing the importance of bolstering relations in various fields and boosting the present level of relations. It supported President Husni Mubarak's proposal to take action to rid the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction.

The statement criticized Israel's settlement policy and stressed that no progress will be achieved in the bilateral negotiations at the peace conference unless the principle of land for peace is recognized.

The statement, issued at the conclusion of the joint ministerial committee meetings, urged Iraq to comply with UN resolutions to help end the Iraqi people's sufferings. It also called for a solution to the problem in Yugoslavia that satisfies all the republics.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi is scheduled to visit Ankara soon to promote consultations and boost bilateral relations. It has also been decided to convene the joint economic committee in May.

The Turkish foreign minister will visit Cairo soon.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM's correspondent, 'Amr Musa said that views were exchanged on relations among the countries in the region and giving momentum to Arab-Israeli negotiations.

'Amr Musa will present a report to President Husni Mubarak on the results of his tour, which included Cyprus, Germany, Geneva, and Turkey.

Regarding bilateral relations, the joint statement recommended that businessmen in the two countries be encouraged to hold regular meetings to boost trade relations. The statement called for a board of businessmen and a holding company to be established and urged the major contracting companies to coordinate their activities in other countries.

The two sides emphasized the importance of developing relations in the fields of transportation, the environment, combating narcotics, and linking their electrical networks. The statement welcomed positive developments in the commonwealth republics.

Musa Views Peace Talks, Former Soviet Republics

NC1302082592 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic
10 Feb 92 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by unidentified correspondent in Moscow, date not given—"originally published by London's AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT"]

[Text] [Correspondent] What is your assessment of the results of the multilateral talks in Moscow and Russia's role in organizing them?

[Musa] We came here in the context of the peace process and the multilateral meetings. Russia became a cosponsor following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. We found Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to be cooperative and understanding. As one of the two sponsors of a conference attended by several parties, the Soviet Union, and later Russia, changed their policies to go along with the changes in the international situation. Of course, the issue is not the Russian or Soviet stand. The entire international situation changed, and the Soviet Union dissolved. The USSR and Russia are not what they used to be. There are new facts, now that the cold war and the rivalry with the United States have ended. These events have led to a tremendous change in the international situation. The Russian outlook and the considerations on which the Russian stance used to be based have changed. This has influenced international facts.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that Russia has inherited the Soviet Union's weak role in the peace process?

[Musa] No. I do not want to go into this issue because the Soviet Union's circumstances, and now Russia's circumstances, are difficult in and of themselves. We thank them because despite their difficulties, which can affect Russian diplomacy, they have been very positive. As Egyptians and Arabs, we see many positive aspects in Russia's stance. For this reason its role, along with the U.S. role, can be useful when the multilateral negotiations end.

[Correspondent] President Boris Yeltsin's absence from the opening session raised some questions. It seems that Russia organized the Moscow talks to affirm its international role but it does not seem that it will take any particular stand. How do you view this matter?

[Musa] This view contradicts what Kozyrev told me. He said that President Yeltsin's absence may have been due to his preoccupation with more urgent duties prior to the convening of the UN Security Council and President Bush's address to the U.S. Congress. I do not see anything in this to justify rumors.

[Correspondent] How do you view the future of Arab relations with Russia and with the Islamic former Soviet republics?

[Musa] First, Russian-Egyptian ties must be as strong as before but must change in accordance with the numerous current developments. We have a good relationship with Russia. It is a major international country and plays a principal role in international events, whether it is seen as a superpower or simply as a major power—a big difference. Nevertheless, it is still an important nation and it must make a contribution to international developments. We conclude, therefore, that it is necessary for the Arabs and Russia to have a good relationship. It is not a matter of playing Russia against the United States. The international game has changed. This means that we must have a relationship with Russia not in the context of its rivalry with other powers but because Russia is itself a player. This must be taken into account. In addition, Russia has an influence on adjoining regions, not because these regions lie next to the former Soviet Union but because they are neighboring regions that influence and are influenced by their surroundings. This applies to the Middle East as well. This is why we call for maintaining relations with Russia. Similarly, although our relations with the new republics and countries are somewhat independent relations, they are still linked to our relationship with Russia. At the same time we must take into account that when the Commonwealth of Independent States was formed, the links among its member states were not broken as one would have expected. Countries cannot form groups through industrial integration alone. The links must continue without infringing on each republic's independence. We will

establish relations with the independent states, particularly with the Islamic ones, while at the same time maintaining our relations with Russia and the other republics.

[Correspondent] The Turks and Iranians are in a race to see who will have more influence on the Islamic former Soviet republics. What is your opinion on this issue?

[Musa] There is no race going on. Any country—particularly Islamic countries like Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, or Egypt—has the right to establish and strengthen relations with the new Islamic countries. We cannot hold this against anyone. On the contrary, every country has the right to establish such ties.

What is important is that these relations proceed from a constructive perspective. These republics lived under communist rule for 70 years, during which their Islamic character suffered. We wish to restore this character to them in a constructive, moderate, and progressive way. We must convince these republics that Islam is a constructive religion and a progressive religion in an ideological sense. It fits every age and place and is a constructive, not destructive, force—a force for progress, not backwardness; and a force participating in developing, not obstructing international progress. This is our position in Egypt.

[Correspondent] Some say Iran looks forward to playing the role of regional superpower. Is this the reason for the dispute between Cairo and Tehran?

[Musa] Iran is truly a major state. It is a country with a population of 55 million and one that has prestige and weight. From this premise, and armed with these facts, we are obliged to make a sound assessment of the matter. Iran is a major country in the Gulf region. At the same time, most of the countries in the region are Arab; such as Iraq, Kuwait, and the Gulf states. These countries have their own policy and affiliations in and outside the Arab world. Iran is part of the Third World, not just of the Arab world [as published]. This is why we need more dialogue, consultations, and participation with Iran on a constructive basis. We have an integrated Arab entity that has its shortcomings, its positive and negative elements. As for Iran, we must give it what it is entitled to and not exaggerate its intervention in Arab affairs. We call for looking at things with reason and for an in-depth examination of their dimension during the current state of international and regional flux. Any action that is not well thought out will not work. We must always be constructive. I repeat: There are no differences between Egypt and Iran; in fact there are many areas of cooperation.

[Correspondent] Does the Iranian-Sudanese rapprochement, including recent agreements signed between the two countries, worry you?

[Musa] Following President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Sudan, I said that every country has the right to receive the president of any other country. We, therefore, have nothing to do with the matter. We always say that such relations should promote positive not negative aspects, whether at the bilateral or collective levels, and should not deepen enmity or divisions between one country and the other. We are not living in the eighties or the late seventies. Egypt is keeping up with all the developments.

[Correspondent] Your relations with Sudan seem to be troubled. How would you describe them?

[Musa] There is some tension in our relations with Sudan over certain issues, but many links remain.

[Correspondent] Is the Islamic Front's role in the decisionmaking in Khartoum an element of tension?

[Musa] It is one of the reasons, yes.

[Correspondent] You supported the Algerian State Council. Why?

[Musa] We support the promotion of stability in Algeria. Egyptian-Algerian relations remain strong. The situation in Algeria deserves attention, and we are interested in Algeria's stability and the progress of the Algerian people. Algeria is a purely Arab country and its stability is important. Equally important is the continuation of its march as a sane country that works hand-in-hand with other Arab countries from the serious situation in the region, and this task is important [sentence as published].

[Correspondent] Israel is active in the Central Asian republics, relying on its representatives among the Bukhara Jews. What is the Arab response to this?

[Musa] The ongoing action in the Islamic republics is not directed against anybody. It is simply an Islamic activity to bring this group back into the large Islamic melting pot on a rational basis. We want Israel to take part in the peace process, and it is not our role to demand that the Jews stay away from the Islamic world. What we want from Israel is peace and its withdrawal from the occupied territories. We are not interested in Israel's relations with the Jews of the world; just as the Arab countries' relations with other states is a matter that does not concern Israel. Some people, however, might be somewhat concerned about its activity within the Islamic world. The issue requires a rational stand. If Israel is interested in the destiny of the Jews in these republics, we too should show some interest in working with these republics. What is important is that this Israeli activity not constitute intervention in their affairs or to be directed against Arabs or Islam.

[Correspondent] We are not talking about chasing the Jews out; we are talking more about an action aimed at strengthening cultural and economic relations, not ideological ones.

[Musa] As you know, an Egyptian delegation led by the deputy prime minister came here and met with what our Syrian brothers call leading economic figures. We are

working and keeping the door open. Benefits and interests are the deciding factors. We embark on our economic relations on the basis of give and take. The same principle applies to cultural and Islamic relations as represented by al-Azhar scholars and intellectuals so that we can get them back into the Islamic fold. We will see what others will do and we will cooperate.

[Correspondent] Did the meetings for Arab coordination in Moscow help reduce the differences that emerged in the wake of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait?

[Musa] First, there is no need to confine all the relationships to one particular aspect or a single framework. I believe that you saw here that when we met with the Yemeni, the Jordanian, or other delegations that we did not discuss the tension created by the Gulf war, the divisions in the Arab world, or their stand on events in Kuwaiti. This was obvious and clear. On the other hand, there have been high-level, constructive aspects in the peace talks.

[Correspondent] Is there anything new in Egypt's relations with Yemen or Jordan. What about summit meetings?

[Musa] Relations with Yeman have always been good and we are not keeping the Jordanian brothers at arm's length. While we realize that inter-Arab relations should be reassessed, we still believe that all matters will be corrected in due time.

[Correspondent] How do you view the effect of Syria's absence from the multilateral talks in Moscow?

[Musa] We have always been very clear on this. Syria refused to participate because Israel does not cooperate within the framework of the settlement and continues to do what it is doing in the occupied territories. Syria has its reasons for not attending. We in Egypt decided to defend Syria's stand and discuss it as much as possible. We say, and we are not alone in this, that the peace process cannot continue without Syria.

[Correspondent] The Palestinians did not come to Moscow to search for a compromise; they came to check on the Arab states' stands. Is this evidence of differences in Arab policy?

[Musa] The Palestinians have their own plans and I will not comment on this. They legitimately have their own plans. It is logical for them to have their plans. They had specific demands which had been fulfilled. We understand that they will participate in the coming stages. Syria did not come but it did not object to the multilateral talks. On the contrary, it will come when there is progress in the land-for-peace principle and when Israel starts to act positively in the bilateral negotiations. This means that the Arab stand is united. Syria made its stand for its reasons, and we consider this to be reasonable. We believe that the Syrian stand is very reasonable. We would have preferred to see Syria in the conference, but it did not attend it for the reasons we have discussed. The Palestinians did well by coming here and it was a good step. They then made a political stand by not actually taking part in the talks. I would have preferred them to have attended the meeting, especially after agreement had been reached to amend the Madrid formula. In general the Arabs are united with differences on some details. These differences are not like in the past, our differences now are conceptual in nature.

Libya

UTA Suspects Said 'Willing To Go to France'

LD1302203492 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Libya has agreed to cooperate with French courts in the inquiry into the UTA plane attack, UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali indicated yesterday in a report to the Security Council.

This was confirmed today by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in an exclusive interview with Frederic Mitterrand. Judging by what he says, the four Libyans for whom Judge Bruguiere has issued international arrest warrants might go to France, unlike those accused by the United States and Great Britain.

[Begin al-Qadhdhafi recording in Arabic with superimposed French translation] Regarding the Libyans accused by France, they hold general positions known by all. Consequently, they themselves said they were willing to go to France to appear before the courts if they are under investigation and if they are sure of their innocence. They bear a responsibility and must assume it. But those who are accused by the Americans are not responsible. They are mere citizens. This refutes the American and British accusations that these two people are allegedly employed by the Libyan intelligence service. As mere citizens they cannot go to countries like the United States and Britain. Like anybody else they are afraid. [end recording]

Judge Seeks 'Open Investigation' in Lockerbie Case

LD1402111592 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Feb (JANA)—JANA has learned that Supreme Court Judge Ahmad al-Tahir al-Zawi, who has been instructed to investigate the explosion that occurred on board the Pan Am flight, will hold an open investigation session with the two Libyans accused in connection with the Pan Am aircraft that crashed over Lockerbie in 1988.

Delegation Asks Compensation for 1986 U.S. Raid

LD1302215800 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] A delegation of families of the victims of the American-NATO aggression against Libya on 15 February 1986 arrived in Geneva today to extend a request

that the American mission there allow them to hand a memorandum to the United Nations secretary general in New York.

The memorandum includes a request for the American administration to honor the rights of those who were killed in the savage agression—including children, women, and old people—and to give compensation for the material damage caused to buildings and plantations in Tripoli and Benghazi.

Al-Qadhdhafi Welcomes U.S. Decision on Ozone

LD1302184192 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Feb (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has made a statement to JANA following the U.S. decision to phase out the production of ozone-destroying chemicals. He said: The United States' decision to accelerate the phasing out of chemical materials which damage and destroy the ozone layer follows repeated appeals, the latest of which was Libya's historic proposal to the world, through the United Nations, urging among other things the need for firm protection of the environment, particularly the ozone layer. I hope that all industrialized countries will follow the example of the United States and put an end to environment-damaging industrial activities, refrain from destroying forests, and combat desertification and locusts.

Treasury Secretary Meets Kazakh Finance Minister

LD1402100392 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for the Treasury met in Tripoli this afternoon with brother Abdakadirov Tuleubek, minister of finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan. They examined ways of bolstering economic cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Libyan-Iranian Joint Committee Session Begins

LD1302122392 Tripoli JANA in English 1419 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Nawwar [February] 12, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The proceedings of the 4th session of the Arab-Libyan/Iranian Joint Committee for Economic, Technical, Scientific and Cultural Co-operation between the two countries started in Tripoli yesterday.

The session was attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Light Industries and by the minister of heavy industry in Iran Nezhad-Hoseynian.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Light Industries made a speech praising the support of the revolution and the Iranian people and their solidarity with the Great Jamahariyah.

He confirmed the need for the continued co-ordination and joint actions for the support and strengthening of co-operation and enhancing it in various economic, industrial, technical and cultural areas.

The Iranian minister of heavy industry made a speech in which he renewed the support and solidarity of the revolution and the Iranian people in the Great Jamahariyah.

He expressed his hope that the 4th session of the joint committee will achieve constructive results in the interest of both nations.

The session will review the proposals laid down by the technical committees assigned to study and research the bi-lateral, co-operative relations.

Minutes Approved

LD1302105692 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0930 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Feb (Arab Maghreb Union Pool/JANA)—The fourth session of the Libyan Arab-Iranian Joint Committee, which took place 8-12 February, concluded in Tripoli yesterday with the signing of the minutes of the meetings.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Light Industries and the Iranian heavy industries minister signed the minutes.

The minutes refer to the necessity of consolidating industrial, economic, and trade cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Iran. They also assert the necessity of widening the base of trade exchanges and consolidating cooperation in various fields. They emphasize the importance of trade and cultural agreements, and stress the need to consolidate cooperation in the banking sector and widen the base for participating in and organizing local and international trade fairs. The minutes also include effective measures for accelerating cooperation in investment, agriculture, health, youth, and sports.

The minutes emphasize the importance of encouraging industrial and commercial companies in the Great Jamahiriyah and Iran to consolidate and widen their cooperation in telecommunications, civil aviation, and maritime transport. They also state that the necessary measures should be taken to improve the level of the existing cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Iran in order to serve the interests and aspirations of the Libyan Arab and Iranian peoples.

Education Agreement Signed

LD1402095992 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0745 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Feb (JANA)—An agreement for cooperation in higher education was signed yesterday evening in Tripoli between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The agreement was signed for Libya by the secretary of the People's Committee for Higher Education, and for Iran by Mostafa Mo'in-Najafabdi, the minister of culture and higher education.

The agreement bolsters joint cooperation in the sphere of higher education and the twinning of the Libyan al-Fatih University and the Iranian Shiraz University. The twinning agreement will be signed in the third week of April.

The cooperation agreement also provides for the exchange of scholarships, students, and teaching staff; and for participation in symposia, conferences, and other educational functions in the two countries.

Mauritania

France Grants 53 Million Francs To Maintain Port

LD1002224192 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Mr. Mohamed Ould Michel, minister of planning, and the director of the Nouakchott office of the Economic Cooperation Central Fund [not further identified], Mr. (Christian Tiesir), this morning signed an agreement according to which the fund grants Mauritania the aid of 53 million French francs, equivalent to 795 million ouguiyas.

The aid will be used to finance the first stage of the maintenance of the independent port of Nouadhibou. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Mauritanian Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

LD1402090192 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0910 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Rabat, 13 Feb (MAP)—Mauritanian Foreign Minister Hasni Ould Didi arrived in Morocco with a letter from President Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya to King Hassan II. The Mauritanian foreign minister told the press that "his visit to Morocco falls within the framework of the special relations between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Mauritania" which are characterized by cordiality, friendship, cohesion, and understanding both at the bilateral level and in the Arab Maghreb Union framework. He added that he is carrying a personal message from President Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya to the Moroccan monarch.

Euro-Maghreb Pipeline Contract Signed

LD1002225492 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1645 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Rabat, 10 Feb (MAP)—A contract was signed recently in Rabat between the firm OMEGAS and an international conglomerate made up of the French firms SOFREGAS and PACEP and the British firm GB KINI [all firm names as received], by virtue of which the contractual firms will take charge of carrying out studies relating to the project of the gas pipeline between the Arab Maghreb and Europe.

This contract, which was signed under the auspices of Morocco's Minister of Energy and Mines Driss Alaoui M'Daghri, includes studies on the maritime section of the Strait of Gibralter.

It is estimated that the survey will be ready in July 1992 in accordance with the general construction timetable, which sets the last quarter of 1995 as a deadline for activating the Arab Maghreb- Europe gas pipeline, which will carry Algerian gas via Moroccan territory toward Western Europe. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Radio Reports Decree on Cabinet Reshuffle

EA1302222192 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Decrees issued by the chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) of National Salvation on 12 February]

[Excerpt] Decree No 69: Dismissal of central ministers: The dismissal of the following:

1. Major General, retired, Ahmad Mahmud Hasan from his post as minister of justice and attorney general;

2. Professor Muhammad Shakir al-Sarraj from his post as minister of health;

3. Colonel Hasan Muhammad Dahawi from his post as minister of state at the Ministry of Energy and Mining.

Decree No. 70: Dismissal of ministers in Khartoum State:

1. Dr Bakri Hamad Musa from his post as minister of health;

2. Prof. Safiyyah 'Abd al-Rahim from her post as minister of education and social welfare.

Decree No. 71: Dismissal of minister in Eastern State:

1. Dr Bushra al-Ubayd from his post as deputy governor and minister of finance, commerce, and supply;

2. Brigadier General Muhammad Mahmud Jami from his post as minister of education, guidance, youth, culture, and information;

3. Dr. Habib Maktum from his post as minister of agriculture, natural resources and rural development.

Decree No. 72: Dismissal of a minister in Bahr al-Ghazal State: Anthony Achor Michael is dismissed from his post as minister of health, social welfare, housing, and public utilities.

Decree No. 73: Dismissal of ministers in Equatoria State: 1. Gajuk Wurnyang Lupaya from his post as minister of health, social welfare, housing, and public utilities;

2. Mr. Caesar Baye from his post as minister of agriculture, natural resources, and rural development.

Decree No. 74: Dismissal of Flight Brigadier Faysal Madani Mukhtar from his post as governor of Kurdufan State.

Decree No. 75: Decree for the appointment of central ministers:

1. Flight Brigadier Faysal Madani Mukhtar, minister of health;

2. Dr 'Abd al-Sami 'Umar Ahmad, minister of health and attorney general.

[Decree No. 76: Appointment of ministers in Khartoum State:

1. Dr Husayn al-Ubayd al-Husayn, minister of health and social welfare;

2. Mr. Hasan 'Uthman Rizq, minister of education, guidance, orientation, and youth.

Decree No. 77: Appointment of ministers in Eastern State:

1. Dr. Habib Maktum, deputy governor and minister of finance, commerce, and supply;

2. Mr. Mirghani al-Muzammil al-Faqih, minister of education, guidance, youth, culture, and information.

Decree No. 78: Dismissal and appointment of commissioner:

1. Mr. James (Negmaya) from his post as commissioner of Maridi Province;

2. Mr. Clement Bazia is appointed as commissioner of Maridi Province.

Decree No. 79: Appointment of a minister in Bahr al-Ghazal State: Mr. Dominic (Bat) Awet as minister of health, social welfare, housing, and public utilities.

Decree No. 80: Appointment of chairman of the Popular Committee for Salvation in Northern State. Mr. Yahya 'Abd al-Rahman al-Hajj Salih is appointed chairman of the Popular Committee for Salvation in the Northern State.

Decree No. 81: Appointment of ministers in Equatoria State:

1. Mr. James (Negmaya) minister of health, social welfare, housing, and public utilities;

2. Mr. Paulino (Kidya) minister of agriculture, natural resources, and rural development.

Decree No. 82: Appointment of secretary general for the government of Upper Nile State: Mr. Abubakr Deng Ajak is appointed secretary general for the government of Upper Nile State.

[Decree No. 83: Dismissal and appointment of chairman of the Popular Committee for Salvation in Equatoria State:

1. Mr. Benjamin Warile is dismissed from his post as chairman of the Popular Committee for Salvation in Equatoria State;

2. Mr. Henry Jada Zacharia, chairman of the Popular Committee for Salvation in the Equatoria State;

3. Mr. Charles Ali Bilal is appointed deputy chairman of the Popular Committee for Salvation in Equatoria State.

Decree No. 84: Appointment of members of the Transitional National Council [al-majlis al-watani al-intiqali]. The following are appointed members of the Transitional National Council. The Transitional National Council: Col., retired, Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah [Yunus], chairman: Brigadier General, retired, Muhammad Nasr al-Din AbdAllah, member and secretary general; Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih [Ahmad], member; Maj. Gen. al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir, member; Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Nayil Idam, member; Maj. Gen. Dominic Kassiano [Gitwawa] Bakhit, member; Flight Brigadier Faysal Madani Mukhtar, member; Naval Brigadier Salah al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Karrar, member; Col. Martin Malwal Arop, member; Col. Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman [al-Badri], member; Col. Bakri Hasan Salih, member; Lieutenant Colonel Ibrahim Shams al-Din Ibrahim, member; Maj. Gen. Muhammad 'Uthman Muhammad Sa'id, member; Maj. Gen. Musa'id al-Nuwayri, member; Maj. Gen. Saturnino Harikha Jannet, member; Police Brigadier George Kongor Arop, member; Col. al-Awad Muhammad al-Hasan, member; Dr Col. al-Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr, member; Col. Galwak Deng Garang, member; Dr. Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, member; Mr. Ali Ahmad Sahlul, member; Prof. Ahmad Ali Qunayf, member; Mr. 'Abd al-Rahim Mahmud Hamdi, member; Mr. Abdullah Deng Nhial, member; Mr. Natali Pankrasio, member; Dr. Ya'qub Abu Shura Musa, member; Father George Kinga [Lungwoko] Dalking, member; Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, member; Dr. Taj al-Sirr Mustafa 'Abd al-Salam, member; Mr. Abd al-Basit Salih Sabdarat, member; Mr. 'Uthman Abd al-Qadir 'Abd al-Latif, member; Dr. Ibrahim Ahmad 'Umar, member; Dr. 'Uthman Abd al-Wahhab Ahmad, member; Mr. Henry Jada Zacharia, member; Mr. Sulayman Husayn Sulayman al-Sanjak, member; Mr. Andrew Kuak Mayol, member; Mr. Abu Ali Majdhub Abu Ali, member; Mr. [Abbo] Hamad Hasaballah, member; Mr. al-Amin Ahmad al-Faqih, member; Mr. Gwang (Tob Nyab), member; Mr. Yahya Abd al-Rahman al-Hajj Salih, member; Mr. Aldo Ajo Deng, member; Dr. Lawrence Wol Wol, member; Mr. Ahmad Zayn al-Abidin Umar, member; Mr. Muhammad Ziyadah Hammur, member;

Dr. Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, member; Mr. Mahmud Da'ud al-Khalifah, member; Prof. al-Muddathir Abd al-Rahim al-Tayyib, member; Father Abe (Severino) Ambrose, member. [passage omitted]

Al-Zubayr-Mubarak Talks Marked by 'Complete Joy'

EA1302174592 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has affirmed that during his recent visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt, he saw the seriousness and keen interest of Egyptian officials concerning developing and enhancing relations between the two fraternal countries. During his meeting with media leaders yesterday at the Republican Palace, Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr said that his meeting with the Egyptian president, Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and the Egyptian officials were marked by complete joy amid which all issues were reviewed. The meetings resulted in agreement to form a joint body which would [word indistinct] differences and agree on ways to guarantee the enhancement of relations in political, economic, and media spheres. He pointed out that the body would be entrusted with preparing a conducive atmosphere for the development of relations, far from conditions of tension and misgivings.

Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr went on to say that he had assured President Mubarak that Sudan could not possibly pose a danger to Egypt. On the Hala'ib issue [disputed border territory on the Red Sea], Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr asserted that he agreed with President Mubarak that the problem should be solved within a political and legal framework and in a civilized manner. His excellency further said that he emphasized to the Egyptian president the strong relations that exist between Sudan and Iran, and that both Sudan and Egypt were free to chose their own friends and enemies without interference. Earlier, Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr visited the wounded Sudanese servicemen who are receiving treatment in Egyptian hospitals.

Al-Bashir Claims Peace in South 'Soon'

EA1302191192 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has reiterated the revolution's commitment to peace, adding that peace will soon be achieved in the South and that Upper Nile State will be the first pillar of peace. This was said at noon on 12 February when he addressed a mass rally in Malakal's stadium. He said: We will soon celebrate peace throughout Sudan, starting in Malakal. His excellency directed Upper Nile State to convene a meeting on development in the state in order to submit its recommendations to the federal government. [passage omitted] On 12 February, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir was briefed by the commander of the military zone on the security situation in the state. His excellency asserted the revolution's concern for equipping the Armed Forces so they can be the shield of peace and development.

Libya's al-Qadhdhafi Meets Media Delegation

EA1302203092 Khartoum SUNA in English 0928 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, 13th February (SUNA)—Leader of the Libyan September Revolution, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, said that Sudan is facing an aggressive international press campaign currently because its people and leadership announced clearly that they will depend on their capabilities and political decision-making. President [as received] Qadhdhafi expressed his thanks during receiving Wednesday [12 February] a Sudanese informational delegation currently on visit to Libya, to the steady stance of the Sudanese Salvation Revolution's leadership and the Sudanese peoples on the side of their Libyan brothers in face of the Atlantic aggression. The imperialist plans are not targeting Libya only but also other countries who refused the policies of the forces of arrogance and liberated their political and economic decisions, President al- Qadhdhafi said.

Paper Describes 'al-Jihad Training Camps'

NC1302164592 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 10 Feb 92 pp 6,7,8,9

[Report by Tariq Husayn: "Inside the al-Jihad Training Camps in Sudan"—punctuation as published]

[Excerpt] Khartoum North is one of three towns which forms the Sudanese capital. It has a high-class quarter called the "al-Mughtaribin" [expatriates]. Most of the houses in this quarter are "villas" owned by the rich and by Sudanese expatriates in the Gulf. Social relations among them are very limited, as opposed to the custom of the Sudanese people, who are known for their strong social bonds.

In this quiet quarter live people who grow beards and have fair complexions. The Sudanese classify these people as strangers. They have become used to seeing them in large numbers in the area following the appearance of al-Turabi!

These strangers have rented houses in this quarter. (It seems this place has been chosen very carefully for them)!

The quarter's inhabitants have noticed that these strangers disappear from the area for a period of 15 to 30 days and then return!

Also in Khartoum North there is the "Kafuri" quarter, a quiet residential area exactly like the al-Mughtaribin quarter. Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, leader of the extremist al-Jihad groups, lived in a house in "Kafuri" after his departure from Egypt! Nearby lives the brother of 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi, the Sudanese finance minister!

In Makki Street in Omdurman the disappearance of people with long beards and fair complexions also is noticed. In this street, buses come and take these strangers to training camps for extremists in "Fattashah," west of Omdurman, and "Karari" behind the military academy, north of Omdurman.

The Beginning

The story from the beginning: Following the 1989 coup in Sudan, Hasan al-Turabi informed members of the international organization of the Muslim Brotherhood that his group now had the upper hand in Khartoum and that this was a rare opportunity which needed immediate support so that "we could strengthen our foothold."

Contacts quickly intensified among members of extremist religious groups in several Arab and European capitals.

In August 1989, the international organization of the Muslim Brotherhood held an important meeting in an European capital, at which it was decided to concentrate on Sudan as a base for extremist religious movements in the Arab world, Africa, and Asia. It also was decided to supply Sudan with the necessary funds. A command branch of the international organization was set up in Sudan and military training camps for the religious movement's cadres also were established.

In the beginning, three centers were established—the first on the Red Sea, the second in Kaduqli town, and the third in al-Jarif area, which is a suburb of Khartoum.

Farm Camps!

When these camps were discovered, they were moved to farms owned by rich people from the al-Turabi group. The most important was a farm in "Halfayat al-Muluk" in Khartoum North. It is owned by al-Tayyib al-Nuss, a rich man who belongs to the al-Turabi group.

On the Suba road, south of Khartoum, there was a farm owned by al-Na'im Bakrawi. The military government seized this farm and gave it to the al-Turabi group, which established a camp for training Iranians, Afghans, Tunisians, Algerians, and Egyptians!

While the farms were being turned into training camps, a qualitative development occurred!

The War!

The Gulf war came with all its magnitude and consequences! At the beginning of the crisis, Arab, Asian, and international fundamentalist groups held successive meetings in Khartoum and Amman. The most important and serious meeting was the Lahore meeting in Pakistan! There these groups agreed that "force is the only solution," that this was the time to use the "al-Jihad battalions," and that bloodshed, bombings, and assassinations are the languages, nothing else! These groups faced a problem.

What is the suitable site now for training the mojahedin? The Afghan file is almost closed and the Lebanese arena has become restricted. So where, then, is the suitable place? At this point al-Turabi appeared, while everyone was pointing at the vast locations on the Sudanese map.

In mid-1991, al-Turabi travelled to Afghanistan, under the cover of mediating between the Afghan mojahedin and the Soviet atheists! After holding several meetings in Peshawar, he immediately travelled to Baghdad. An agreement was reached for Sudan to receive weapons as well as members of the Arab religious groups that travelled before to fight in the Afghan war.

Surprise

Al-Turabi's position as a leader within the new international movement of the hard-line religious groups became stronger. The camps gained more significance after the Arab Islamic Popular Conference was held in Khartoum, where an international leadership was established. The leadership adopted an offensive line of action within the region. In the camp at Halfayat al-Muluk farm, authorities of an important Arab country discovered some of its citizens there. Some of them had travelled to Afghanistan and returned directly to Sudan. But this was not the problem; the problem was the quantity and type of items found in their possession. It was fascinating to discover that the al-Turabi group supplied these citizens with forged seals of the Foreign and Interior Ministries and of some state institutions as well as a machine for printing passports like those issued by this Arab country. This Arab country's authorities later were surprised when they detained one of the members of this group while trying to enter the country with a forged passport that he brought from Khartoum, where for a while he had received training.

After the farm camps issue was disclosed, the training centers moved to sites in military and mountainous regions, taking the Sudanese Army as a cover. These camps, according to the sources, were placed under the direct supervision of Colonel al-Hadi 'Abdallah (better known as al-Hadi al-Nakkashah), who is described as the actual commander in chief of the Sudanese Army, while his official title is commander of the general command brigade and official in charge of guarding. He also is one of the important military figures loyal to al-Turabi. These camps spread to 'Atbarah, (Wadi al-Humar), and Ma'aqil in the Shandi region. From the latter camp, a group of Tunisian extremists flew to Tunisia via a major European airport following an agreement between Hasan al- Turabi and Ghannouchi, leader of the outlawed Ennahda religious group in Tunisia, to assassinate a number of Tunisian security men who they described as the "giants." At the same time, other camps were established at (Karsaju) airport, a stronghold in the middle of the Red Sea mountains that was used in World War II. Most of the people there are from Iran, the religious Palestinian groups such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and the Islamic Jihad. Other than these camps, there are similar others in Jabal al-Awliya';

Khartoum South; Kassala; (Bitai) and (Hamshkurib) in Eastern Sudan; al-Qutaynah; Abu Haraz; (Shamal Madani), which is Sudan's second capital; and (Tayyibat al-Hasnabi), north of Khartoum.

The Leaders

These camps are run by a group of coordination leaders in the Hasan al-Turabi-led international organization, which comprises Arabs and other nationalities who now live in Khartoum and have approximately 350 followers, also present in Sudan. The al-Turabi group cares for all these people, supplying them with special Sudanese passports and training them for security and military assignments.

The sources say al-Turabi's international organization in October 1991 recruited approximately 500 personnel from the extremist Palestinian groups to take part in assassinating leaders and security figures inside the Arab region. The organization's members are paid in dollars. They receive $2,500-$3,000 each every month and live in important locations inside Khartoum, including the al- 'Umarat neighborhood. The following are among the major figures currently in Khartoum: Abdallah Bin-Ahmad Bin-Haj (Algeria), Falih al-Salih (Morocco), Salih al-'Ayqabi and Salih 'Abd-al-Jalil (Saudi Arabia), Muftah Muhammad and Falih 'Abd-al-Jalil (Libya), Hasan Kabut (Uganda), 'Abdallah Cohen (England), 'Abdallah Bin-Jabir (Kuwait), 'Abdallah Bin al-Rashid (Bahrain), Muhammad Salih (Mauritania), 'Abdallah Mudaydin (Kenya), and Muhammad Filin (India) [all names as published]. This group is coordinating with Rached Ghannouchi, who now resides in London, and with 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman, who now is in the United States, both of whom were forced to leave Khartoum after coming into the spotlight.

In the meantime, Iran remained al-Turbai's overt and covert trump. Before things officially came into the open following Rafsanjani's visit to Khartoum, Iranian experts had paid regular visits to Khartoum in the past few years. Al-Turabi, along with his deputy 'Ali 'Uthman Taha, paid more than one secret visit to Tehran, where it was decided that Iran would train the Sudanese on military operations and even on torture methods in prisons. Meanwhile, the relationship between the al-Turabi group and the pro-Iranian Hizballah in Lebanon remained warm. The liaison official between the two was Dr. Nafi' 'Ali Nafi', who leads the operations undertaken by al-Turabi's security agencies inside Sudan. At a conference held in Tehran late last year, al-Turabi group expressed readiness to host the main offices of all the rejectionist groups in the Arab region. Most of these groups recently fled to Sudan from an Arab country.

Funds

Iran has deposited approximately $20 million for these groups in one of the Islamic banks in Khartoum. Iran's men, who had worked in Lebanon before, moved to Khartoum (approximately 2,000 cadres). Meanwhile, Iran, in coordination with the al-Turabi group, currently provides support for the Shiite elements that are gaining strength in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, and Zaire.

It is known that al-Turabi's group is one of the richest movements in the region. It has ample funds, thanks to its infiltration of several Islamic financial institutions. A large number of its members are rich, including a considerable percentage who are involved in wide-scale arms trade inside African, Arab, and Asian countries. The organization managed to set up a number of charity organizations to use them as a facade to attract financing through donations. [passage omitted]

Envoy Denies Existence of Fundamentalist Camps

LD1302204992 Rabat MAP in English 1318 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Algiers, Feb. 13 (MAP)—Sudanese Ambassador to Algiers Wednesday denied the news alleging the existence in Sudan 15 training camps for Islamic fundamentalists coming from different countries including Algeria. In a clarification, carried by the Algiers-based "SALAM" daily, the Sudanese Embassy termed the information "groundless" adding this "kind of information is fabricated to jeopardize Sudan's relations with sisterly countries".

The existence of the camps was revealed by an Egyptian paper. The information was reproduced by the Algerian news agency and "SALAM".

Road Opens Between Khartoum, Asmera

EA1302175092 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Khartoum, 12th February (SUNA)—Deputy wali [governor] of Khartoum State, Col Yusuf 'Abd al-Fatah, inaugurated Tuesday [11 February] a festival for a land road between Khartoum and Asmera (Eritrea). Col 'Abd al-Fatah hailed the relations between Sudan and Eritrea saying that this road crowned the struggle off the Eritrean peoples and the support of the Sudanese peoples to them. He said that the Sudanese Government is preparing to inaugurate the roads of Khartoum-Addis Ababa, [Khartoum-] al-Fashir (western Sudan)-al-Kafra (Libya) and [Khartoum-) Halfa-(northern Sudan)-Cairo. Col 'Abd al-Fatah expressed [the] hope that the next years witness linking of Sudan and all the African countries with land roads.

Tunisia

Minister Hails 'Corrective Action' in Algeria

PM0702154692 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 6 Feb 92 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Tunisian Interior Minister Tells SAWT AL-KUWAYT: No Dialogue Or Reconciliation With Ghannouchi's Movement"]

[Excerpts] Tunis, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Tunisian Interior Minister Abdallah Kallel has praised the policy pursued by the new Algerian leadership and expressed his appreciation for what he termed the "corrective action" which Algeria is currently experiencing.

Kallel told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that what he termed corrective action "is bound to guarantee that fraternal country stability, security, and continued effective contribution to building the future of our Arab Maghreb Union."

The Tunisian interior minister reiterated his definite refusal to conduct any dialogue or reconciliation with the leaders of the outlawed Tunisian fundamentalist Ennahda movement headed by Rachid Ghannouchi.

Kallel described the Ennahda's leaders and their supporters as "sick-minded people whose eyes and hearts have been blinded by a black cloud, determined to hatch their designs in the dark to seize power, using religion as a pretext, for the sole purpose of changing society's way of life, suppressing interpretation [al-ijtihad], appointing themselves as a mediator between the people and their God, and destroying the patriotic group's achievements."

That approach is unacceptable, he said. And the attempt to drag Tunisia into the darkness of closed minds is unacceptable; there is no argument about that. That cannot be accepted by the overwhelming majority of the Tunisian people, who are known for their tolerance, brotherhood, cooperation, kindness, and piety in accordance with the teachings of our true religion. [passage omitted]

The Tunisian minister emphasized that, despite the six Tunisian opposition parties' nonparticipation in the last municipal and legislative elections, the regime is still prepared to move toward strengthening the march toward democracy and establishing a pluralist, balanced society.

Ben Ali Hears Report on Cyprus Nonaligned Meeting

LD1002221492 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Excerpt] President Ben Ali has reiterated the need for the development of the Nonalignment Movement to enable it to perform its work and policy in the climate of changes taking place on the international arena and to give it a practical dimension through the bolstering of economic cooperation among its members within the framework of South-South cooperation.

President Ben Ali was speaking during his meeting with Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya who reported to the president on the Tunisian delegation's participation in the Cyprus conference of the Nonaligned Committee on Methodology in preparation for the forthcoming Nonaligned summit conference in Indonesia. [passage omitted]

New Governor Appointments Announced

LD1402093492 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali today received Abdallah Kallel, minister of state and of the interior, in the presence of Prime Minister Hamed Karoui.

During the meeting, Kallel reported to the president on the agenda of the international conference of the republics' governors, which will convene on 14 and 15 Februry. President Ben Ali will preside over the conference's final session.

The conference will discuss matters pertaining to the protection of the environment, the protection of the consumer, the bolstering of decentralization, and the promotion of social work.

Kallel announced that President Ben Ali has appointed the following governors:

Abdelwahab Jmel as governor for Nabeul;

Kacem Salah as governor for Ben Arous;

Kemal Chendi as governor of Zaghouan.

President Ben Ali has decided to transfer Mohamed Rachdi from his post as governor for Ben Arous to the post of governor of Sfax.

Dhaou Ma'aiez [governor of Zaghouan] will be entrusted with other duties.

Defense Minister Meets Turkish Commander

LD1002224592 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Mr. Abdelaziz Ben Dhia, the minister of national defense, this afternoon received the commander of the Turkish Land Forces, who is currently paying an official visit to Tunisia at the head of a delegation.

The talks covered prospects for development of Tunisian-Algerian relations by intensifying and enriching bilateral cooperation particularly between the two armed forces.

Kuwait

Defense Minister on Gulf Security Prospects

PM1402114292 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 12 Feb 92 p 3

[Interview with Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim by SAWT AL-KUWAYT's editorial staff in London; date not given]

[Text] [SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Whenever the Gulf security issue is discussed Iran's name emerges as one of the main parties in the region. Various concepts of the nature of the Iran's place on the Gulf security map have been proposed. How do you envisage Iran's position in that context?

[Al-Salim] There can be no doubt that Iran plays an important part in mapping the Gulf's future at all levels. Iran cannot be excluded or ignored in any arrangements leading to a formula that would ensure the establishment of security, peace, and stability in the region. My view is that all the parties concerned, including Iran, must fully realize that the Gulf's security is a common issue affecting the interests of all the states of the region without exception.

The important factor in the Gulf's stability is the need to extend the narrow military concept of security to its economic, social, and human concept as a whole. Experience throughout history has demonstrated that economic cooperation and integration are important factors of security overall. On that basis, Iran is very important in the fields of economic cooperation, trade, the provision of labor for the Gulf states, and the creation of an integrated Gulf market.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Serious efforts have been made to set up a unified Gulf army as an entity capable of repulsing any aggression against any state in the region. What has been done so far toward achieving that objective? What are Kuwait's views regarding the size and nature of the proposed army?

[Al-Salim] First, let me emphasize that what has been proposed by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman regarding the formation of a unified Gulf army is what we all want in the long run. However, the mechanism for implementing that proposal could have been the main obstacle preventing the natural birth of the project. The Omani proposal calls for a unified Gulf army consisting of 100,000 men. Kuwait expressed a view regarding one aspect of that proposal, namely, the manpower aspect, in other words, the availability of the necessary numbers. The state of Kuwait has just emerged from a period of invasion and occupation of its territory. So we cannot contribute to the proposed Gulf army before building our own army. Some fraternal states in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] also made certain observations about the Omani plan, generally concerning the issue of that army's continuity at the required level, as well as finding formulas that would reconcile the administrative and procedural differences in the members states' systems. That is why the general view was that the "Peninsula Shield" which includes joint forces from the GCC states should be the main nucleus leading to the formation of a unified army in the long term. We are talking about a phase lasting 10-15 years, not about instantaneous formulas materializing overnight. At any rate, our ultimate aim, subject to the agreement of all GCC members, is to have an effective force capable of defending any part of the GCC states. As regards the method of implementation, we leave the careful study of all aspects of that to the specialists in the member states' armed forces.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] May we know the main features of the Kuwaiti-British memorandum of understanding?

[Al-Salim] The memorandum is similar to the security agreement, or rather the memorandum of understanding, with the United States. Both agreements are based on two foundations. The first is the preservation of peace in the region through cooperation between the signatory states and through coordination to ensure peace and security in the Gulf region.

The second and more important foundation is to seek to repulse any aggression against Kuwait. There are other details, such as defense cooperation and joint exercises and training. The difference between the two agreements is that the agreement with Britain has no provision for storage of materials and equipment in Kuwait.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] It has also been reported that the two memorandums provide for the rebuilding of the Kuwaiti Army.

[Al-Salim] Yes, they provide for cooperation which covers assistance in the rebuilding of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces in terms of organization, armament, and training, as stipulated in the agreement with the United States. As you know, Kuwait is limited numerically and geographically.

Our aim, therefore, is to make the Kuwaiti fighter's capability equal to that of at least 10 of the enemy's. This can only be achieved by using high technology and high quality training to make up for the shortage in numbers. This means that there is no intention to increase the size of the Kuwaiti forces numerically.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Until such time, in the long term, as a unified Gulf army can materialize, are there any security alternatives for the period ahead, other than the military option?

[Al-Salim] Most regrettably, our circumstances do not allow Kuwait to be in a position similar to that of Switzerland—in other words, adherence to the principle of demilitarization. That may suit Western Europe geographically and politically, but it does not suit Kuwait's geographical and political position in the general Arab situation, which you know. This situation, as bitter experience has taught us, is one where force has the final

word. The law of the jungle still exists. True, we have always worked with all our faith and energy for comprehensive integrated Arab union within which each state would respect the others' sovereignty. That was Kuwait's line for a long time but, during Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, that theory was proven to have failed. [passage omitted]

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Regarding the military aspect of the Damascus Declaration, comprising the GCC states, Egypt, and Syria, it has been rumored that there was a proposal calling for the deployment of joint Egyptian-Syrian forces on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti-Saudi borders. Is that true?

[Al-Salim] I have not heard of any such proposal. What is more important than that is the fact that when I visited President Husni Mubarak and President Hafiz al-Asad, both leaders expressed their readiness to send forces to Kuwait after the coalition forces' withdrawal and as soon as such forces were needed by Kuwait. However, our circumstances after the occupation did not allow us to receive fraternal forces from Egypt and Syria, because we could not provide the necessary accommodation for them and could not accord them the hospitality they deserved. It was therefore decided to summon such forces when the need arose. [passage omitted]

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Does the Kuwaiti-British memorandum of understanding provide for a permanent British naval presence in the region?

[Al-Salim] Let me answer that question from a wider perspective. In our talks with Washington and London, the understanding was that there should be cooperation covering training and joint exercises by land, air, and naval forces.

It is natural for Britain to keep some naval units [in the area], not only in implementation of the memorandum of understanding but for considerations relating to British interests in the region. So the British naval presence will continue. The U.S. naval presence will also continue, and on a larger scale than Britain's.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What about the security agreement with France?

[Al-Salim] We are now studying a draft memorandum of understanding with France in the light of the proposals sent by France. Our answer will be ready before the blessed month of Ramadan, God willing. Talks will then begin on concluding such an agreement and on details. [passage omitted]

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What efforts is Kuwait making to stop the infiltration operations across the Iraqi border? What future plans are there for finally securing the borders?

[Al-Salim] If we examined the Iraqi infiltration incidents statistically, we would find that they were very frequent in the first stage after the liberation. That was natural. Then they gradually became fewer and fewer. For instance, two months ago there were seven or eight incidents compared with about 24 daily incidents in the past. The credit for that goes to the alertness and deployment of the Kuwaiti Armed forces and the forces attached to the Interior Ministry. [passage omitted]

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What about border demarcation?

[Al-Salim] The Iraqi side is still procrastinating on border demarcation. The committee is scheduled to meet again next month. However, the practical process of border demarcation will begin in two or three months, God willing. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Cited on Foreign, Domestic Policy

PM1302153892 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 14 Feb 92 pp 25-27

[Interview with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz by Editor in Chief Milhim Karam; date, place not given]

[Text] [Karam] My first question was about the Gulf war. The custodian of the two holy mosques said: I often advised Saddam Husayn not to engage in a war against Iran and to establish neighborly relations with the Iranians. But he told me: They harbor evil toward us, and it is more useful to hit them now because they are weak. If we leave until they become strong, they will overrun us. I said: War drains energies and human resources, and one day we will call for a dialogue and tolerance with them. They are not as weak as you think. But he refused to back down. He told me: I will not regret it. Then two years later he came to me, asking me to mediate and intervene.

He told me: You were right, but now we are involved and it is impossible to retreat; I am relying on your help. So I did what is expected between brothers, neighbors, and the sons of one religion and one nationality [qawmiyah]. I helped him. And so did most of the other Arab brothers. But that war did us great harm. I tried to stop him on the day of Kuwait's occupation, but in vain. He did not stop. In fact he made promises but did not fulfill them, until we reached the tragedies and pains which we are experiencing.

I had proposed to him that he and the Iranians seek arbitration by the leaders of two Muslim states—one from Asia and another from Africa—and to accept this arbitration, but he refused. As for why we helped him, it was so that Iraq would survive and not disappear.

The breakup of the Arab ranks' unity makes our hearts bleed and saddens us. But the one responsible is the one who was the cause and who started it.

[Karam] What about the consultative [shura] council? When will it be announced?

[King Fahd] The consultative council system, which is based on the principal system of government and the districts system, will be announced this month, February. It will be a kind of partnership between the grassroots and the leadership. It will include a large number of citizens in order to explore their opinions. It will also provide support for the Council of Ministers. All issues and matters concerning the citizens' and states's welfare will be referred to it. It will represent a source of strength for it. God willing, it members will be leading citizens whose thinking is of a high standard, so that they can examine the issues that require judgment and perception and advise us.

People must know this: We already use consultation [shura]. Every government organ has a large group of people available, and every ministry has a working team. We have estabioshed the rule that nothing must be decided without reference to this team. All our affairs are referred to ministries concerned, which study and explore the views of the group in question. I am keen to clarify something about which some people are probably ignorant or about which the opposite has be said, namely, that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is run by one person. The truth is completely the opposite, since more than 200 people share their views before any decision is made. We seek their opinions and then refer the matter to the Council of Ministers for discussion. And this discussion is conducted in complete freedom. Then it is ratified in the routine manner.

As for what is happening today, we are working to incorporate these organs into onesingle council, the consultative council, so that it can be responsible for financial, administrative, and political mechanisms.

[Karam] What about the 10th anniversary of your accession to the throne? What feelings does it arouse in your majesty after the gigantic achievements made under your guidance and leadership?

[King Fahd] Satisfaction with the people's happiness and their appreciation of what has been achieved. And a feeling that this places more responsibilities on me—responsibilities which I am honored to shoulder. There are many achievements which speak for themselves in documents and statistics.

[Karam] What about Algeria?

[King Fahd] We have been eager to keep some distance between ourselves and events in Algeria, because we are determined not to become involved in other states' internal affairs. We have not interfered at all. We do we want to interfere in another state's affairs, nor do we want anyone to interfere in ours. We wish Algeria stability and calm.

[Karam] You have always sponsored youth and encouraged their ambitions. What about new projects for youth and combating unemployment?

[King Fahd] The Kingdom has the greatest clubs in the world. There are comprehensive clubs that offer everything that young people like. Whichever sport they want to play to spend their time enjoyably, they can find in these clubs. I hope that you will have enough time to see these clubs and to see this for yourself. Every kind of sport that attracts young people is available—and at the highest standard. As for guiding the Saudi youth, guidance proceeds from the media, which enlighten the kingdom's youth about what is beneficial for them in terms of their religion and their life.

What we are working to do now, as we have always done, is to ensure that there is not a single unemployed person. Over the past 20 years Saudi Arabia has managed some very praiseworthy achievements, including laboratories, roads, industry, agriculture, and projects in all the institutions on which the state relies. It imports almost 80 percent less than it used to. It now exports to the world, because its industry matches the latest highest standards. Our agriculture meets the Kingdom's needs and also exports to other states of the developed world. This, because the best grains are produced by the best agricultural methods in Saudi Arabia, which used to be an arid desert but has now become an agricultural country that produces most grains and fruits. It even exports flowers to Holland twice a week. This is the new face of Saudi Arabia, having been a desert in the past. Today, wherever you go—north, east, south, west—you find agriculture. Not just grain crops, but most varieties of vegetables, fruits, and date palms. Date palms produce some 7,000 tonnes of dates. There are special factories which clean and package these dates. Then Saudi Arabia distributes them to many Asian and African countries free of charge. We now have more than 2,300 factories. They are all productive.

We have pursued a policy which I consider correct, namely, not to try to set up heavy industries. We rely on light industry, which meets our needs and enables us to do without imports. This is in addition to other things such as food and everything that used to be imported. I believe that a state that can rely on itself is a prosperous state. We have absolute freedom with regard to capital. The state does not interfere in capital or banks. Anyone can deposit $100 million in Saudi banks and withdraw it without any question or opposition from anyone. Bank freedom is guaranteed in the Kingdom, and the state has no control over them and no hand touches them at all. The Kingdom is the most distinguished state in which money can be handled freely. The freedom of both individuals and groups to dispose [of their money] is guaranteed. They are free in their financial and economic actions, and also in the various business fields.

As for those who need assistance from the state, it encourages them either by giving them advice or by helping them to set up constructive enterprises that will benefit them. Saudi Arabia is capable of absorbing any number of graduates from its universities. It is now setting up institutes at the universities to be joined by the young people. This, because when students graduate

from the university they are usually about 20-22 years old and probably have no job experience. The idea now is to establish these postgraduate institutes. The period of study in them will be two years. They will enhance human capabilities, thus benefiting the state and Saudi companies that have large numbers of employees of various nationalities. Graduates will benefit from themselves and from their education. Saudi Arabia is doing the best that can be done. For example, if a group of youngsters graduate and then there are no jobs for them within the state, the government provides them with money and directs them correctly to set up a factory or an agricultural project so that there are no unemployed people. I believe that these institutes will produce young graduates experienced in their own fields.

To enable these youths to find jobs, the state provides facilities and incentives to join these institutes that will benefit them. So it grants them a monthly allowance and free education. The period of study in these institutes—two years—will count toward civil service seniority. For example, if a young person occupies a state or company job, then he is treated as if he has already worked for two years. And promotion will be conducted on that basis. So instead of his staying in grade one for three or four years, he is promoted to a higher grade, which guarantees his future and grants him the practical experience the state needs. So when students graduate they will find all they need to prepare themselves to a high standard in the language (English or French) which they have chosen or the jobs that they have decided to pursue in the future. To encourage young people to do this we have made three provisions: first, free education; second, monthly salaries; third, a guarantee that these two years will count toward promotions.

All this encourages young people and guarantees jobs in industrial and agricultural institutes, military academies, or the industrial and agricultural fields.

Some youngsters want to do particular jobs, so the state provides places for them in the industrial, commercial, and agricultural colleges; military and police academies; and the National Guard. If a number of youngsters want to work in agriculture, the state provide them with the land and loans free of interest for 10 years. The university graduates issue will receive my own personal attention so that university graduates will encounter no obstacles.

[Karam] Regarding the Arab situation, are we moving toward complete tranquillity or is it not time for that yet?

[King Fahd] As you know, what happened between the Arab states is upsetting. I was the first one to be upset by it. It upsets every sincere Arab citizen, but we are not the cause of the Arab differences. Those who caused these differences should seek to end them in a serious, logical, and realistic manner. We are blameless. They are the ones who tried to depart from the framework of Arab interests into the unknown. What was the result? Nobody in Saudi Arabia wanted the situation in Iraq to reach the point that it has reached. The Iraqi people are Arab people. If the rulers in any country make mistakes to the detriment of their peoples, how are the people to blame? We are not the ones who caused Iraq's current suffering. Did it ever occur to anyone that an Arab country would storm and invade another fraternal Arab country? There are written treaties. What happened to the treaties signed by the heads of states, and what about the Arab League charters? What happened was a big mistake. Other mistakes were committed before that, as I explained at the time, but will that alert us and lead us to better things? I believe that this matter can only be dealt with logically, realistically, and convincingly. Because of these mistakes, we have suffered and have been harmed. Should this harm continue forever? Of course not. Those who did wrong and who misbehaved should remedy the situation themselves. If they tackle it with understanding and logic then it could be the beginning of acceptable conduct. It is inconceivable, however, that it is we—who suffered as a result of that misbehavior—that should remedy the situation.

[Karam] What about oil prices?

[King Fahd] As you can see, oil prices have been falling. Two or three days ago they began to rise. I believe that the only reason is not Saudi production, as some claim, but what the experts say, namely, that when the problems in Iraq occurred, all world states that could purchase—and even states with limited revenue—did purchase large quantities and stored them. When they saw a return of stability and when they saw the restoration of normal conditions in Kuwait, they used these stocks. The cause of the drop in prices was the massive reserves in many states which are now selling that oil. This is what I think; otherwise, how can we explain the drop in the middle of a severe winter? There was a big surplus, but that surplus will be absorbed within two months and markets will return to normal. We in Saudi Arabia never try to create problems for OPEC, but we also do not want to have any problems ourselves, as in the past. As you know, Saudi Arabia shoulders many burdens as a result of what happened in Iraq. Its budget depends on oil, after God. I repeat, the big reserves are the cause of the drop. When they became available on the market, the fall occurred. Within two months the situation will return to what it was before. I emphasize that we in Saudi Arabia will never cause a fall in oil prices.

[Karam] Lebanon is still going through difficult times, despite your majesty's generousity. The aid has not reached there yet. Why?

[King Fahd] As you know, there is a fund for Lebanon. We in the Kingdom were the first to extend aid to Lebanon, and we will give it more aid. We will do our duty without any hesitation. The other brothers who made commitments to Lebanon should make efforts and should honor their commitments. Saudi Arabia affirms that it will not hesitate to do its duty to Lebanon. The fund is not only an Arab and Gulf responsibility. All the

world's states should contribute to it. This is the principle of it. For our part, we will contact the world states and urge them to contribute to the fund for Lebanon's reconstruction. We hope they will agree.

[Karam] Many institutions and publications have named you man of the year. How do you feel about that?

[King Fahd] Naming me man of the year or whatever is a kind gesture on the part of those who did it. I do not judge myself. I just continue with my efforts. I thank those who nominate me or voice a good opinion of me for their confidence in me. It does not make me work harder, nor does it make me conceited or divert me from my course.

In discharging my duties I seek no reward other than God's blessings. To those who appreciate me and express gratitude I say, thank you.

Here I would like to say something else. What I find somewhat painful is the defamation sometimes directed at the Kingdom. The gates of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are open to everyone to see closely for themselves. They would clearly see that the limited campaign by a small section of the media aims to distort the Kingdom's image. It is a campaign of lies and fabrications. Over the years of its life, has the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia lived up to its responsibilities in tackling events or not? Has its wealth been spent on the homeland or not, for the prosperity of mankind or not?

I invite those who spread untrue reports about the Kingdom to come and see for themselves how very wrong they are. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia moves with steady steps. In a few years it has risen to the highest level of development for itself and its people.

[Karam] Are there any political prisoners in the Kingdom's prisons?

[King Fahd] The Kingdom's enemies keep saying that. The truth is that there is not a single political prisoner in the Kingdom. The prisoners we have are people who had problems with others and against whom sentences were passed by Shari'a courts. Apart from that, the state does not interfere with anyone and does not arrest anyone. I stress this to everyone. The state does not interfere except when people harm others or themselves. When such harm occurs, the government organs do not simply take action. They refer the defendant to the Shari'a court. These courts have lawyers who defend the accused. Once the court passes sentence, the state implements the Shari'a sentence, but the state has no desire to interfere in such matters. The Saudi people enjoy freedom. We have no problems that require state interference. What we want to make clear is this: The Saudi people enjoy freedom given by the almighty God and manifested in the Islamic faith. We have an unshakable principle, which is that we are fully committed to the implementation of the letter and spirit of the Islamic faith. As for mistakes, mistakes were committed even in the days of the prophet—may God's peace and blessings be upon him—and in the days of the orthodox caliphs. Human beings make mistakes. If there were no mistakes there would have been no explanations about that in God's book or in the teachings of his prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him. I do not say that no mistakes have been committed. The words of the orthodox caliphs and benevolent and reformist imams confirm that if human beings did not make mistakes there would have been no statutes for their punishment and forgiveness. I do not claim at all that Saudi Arabia and its people do not make mistakes. Nobody is infallible, but matters should be tackled in a proper way that does not depart from the Shari'a laws. This is our principle and it is the basis and the foundation of what we do.

[Karam] What about the plans to expand the two holy mosques? Your majesty recently visited holy Medina and inspected the plans to expand the prophet's holy mosque to reassure yourself that they would be completed ahead of schedule in the interest of the visitors and pilgrims to the prophet's city.

[King Fahd] The projects to expand the two holy mosques are proceeding steadily with a view to completion ahead of schedule, God willing. The expansion of the prophet's holy mosque has almost been completed. Visitors to the city of the noble prohpet—may God's peace and mercy be upon him—in the blessed month of Ramadan will benefit from that. Work is under way on other expansions to accommodate a larger number of Muslims.

Joint Saudi-Egyptian Press Statement

LD1302134592 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1158 GMT 12 Feb 92

["Joint press statement on the fourth session of the Joint Committee for Bilateral Cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt," held in Riyadh on 11-12 February 1992]

[Text] Riyadh, 12 Feb (SPA)—In consolidation of the firm fraternal ties that exist between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt, as an expression of the strong brotherly links between the two states, and in order to create new opportunities to enable these links to develop in such a way as to respond to the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples for a more advanced, more prosperous, and more secure future, and enable them to actively participate in the realization of the sublime pan-Arab interests of the entire Arab nation;

And in implementation of the directives of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz al-Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, and of His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt;

And in accordance with the agreement to establish the Joint Committee for Bilateral Cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of

Egypt signed in Cairo on 24 Sha'ban 1409H, corresponding to 31 March 1989, at the end of the historic visit paid by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, to the Arab Republic of Egypt from 20-24 Sha'ban 1409H, corresponding to 27-31 March 1989; the Joint Saudi- Egyptian Committee for Bilateral Cooperation held its fourth session in Riyadh on 8-9 Sha'ban 1412H, corresponding to 11-12 February 1992.

The Egyptian side was headed by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. The members of the Egyptian side were: Dr. 'Adil 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research; Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Razzaz; Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation; and Dr. Muhyi al-Din al-Gharib, head of the executive authority of the General Establishment of Investment.

The Saudi side was led by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al- Faysal, the foreign minister. The members of the side were: His Excellency Muhammad al-'Ali Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; His Excellency Dr. Salih al-'Adhl, head of the King 'Abd al-'Aziz City of Science and Technology.

Senior officials from ministries, government establishments, and authorities in the two fraternal countries, and representatives of the chambers of trade and industry from both countries also participated.

The two sides reviewed the progress of cooperation, coordination, and consultation between them in all political, economic, commercial, investment, industrial, agricultural, cultural, media, and technical fields, and in the fields of manpower, sport, and youth in the light of the preparatory committee's report of its meetings held in Cairo on 7-8 Rajab 1412H, corresponding to 11-12 January 1992.

Political Coordination and Consultation: The two sides reviewed the various Arab, Islamic, and international issues of common interest, and expressed their pride in the spirit of fraternal and principled solidarity which was evident in their stance on the side of right and the principles of international law, and their contributions to the expression of the international community's will and the implementation of the resolutions of international law, which was crowned with success in the liberation of the State of Kuwait and in the recovery of its freedom, sovereignty, independence, and legitimate government.

They also renewed their commitment and adherence to the full implementation of all the resolutions of the UN Security Council regarding Iraq's aggression against the State of Kuwait.

They reaffirmed their total concern for Iraq's territorial integrity and regional safety, and their sympathy with the Iraqi people, who are being subjected to all kinds of persecution and terror. They assert the Iraqi regime's total responsibility for this by refusing to implement the UN Security Council's resolutions 706 and 712, which deal with the removal of the human sufferings of the fraternal Iraqi people.

The two sides reaffirmed anew their adherence to their pan-Arab and historic commitment by guaranteeing the restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination, and their continuous striving to push the wheel of peace forward and realize a just and comprehensive solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict according to the principles of international law and the principle of land for peace.

The two sides praised the serious and purposeful Arab stances which were evident in the comprehensive Arab backing for the peace process. The two fraternal sides expressed their appreciation for the Arab delegations' stances at the bilateral negotiations, which proved their positive participation and sincere willingness to enter into serious and purposeful negotiations, and expressed their utmost regret for the stumbling of these negotiations. They stressed their firm stance that Israel should face its responsibility for peace based on UN Security Council Resolution 242 in all its clauses and paragraphs.

The two sides decided that the Arab participation in the multilateral talks had helped to create a definite international conviction that these talks rely—in so far as they are a part of the peace process—on the principle of land for peace.

This participation has confirmed that regional cooperation in the area is inconceivable as long as Arab areas still live under the yoke of brutal Israeli occupation, as long as the Palestinian people are deprived of their legitimate right to self-determination, as long as Israel continues its settlements policy in the occupied Arab areas and changes the landmarks of Holy Jerusalem in order to annex it, and as long as it practices a policy of repression against the Palestinian people who are still being exposed to oppression, internment, and deportation.

As a consequence, any progress in the multilateral talks will depend on the final negotiations making basic and tangible progress, on Israel stopping the building of settlements in the occupied Arab areas, and on Israeli respect for the letter and spirit of the fourth Geneva agreement.

The two sides expressed their condemnation of Israel's high- handed policies against the Palestinian people in the occupied areas, and they denounced the recent decision of the Israeli government to deport a number of Palestinians—this is considered a flagrant violation of international law and of the fourth Geneva agreement. The two sides demanded that the UN Security Council intervene to put an end to such violations.

The two sides welcomed anew the positive development in fraternal Lebanon and the achievements of the Lebanese Government in the process of national concord and the protection of the independence of Lebanon, its territorial integration, and sovereignty. They demanded

the full and unconditional implementation of UN Security Council resolution 425 and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, without this withdrawal being linked with a solution to the Middle East problem.

The two sides pointed out their great concern over the current events in fraternal Somalia and its dangerous repercussions for the Horn of Africa, as well as the ensuing human suffering of the Somali people.

They called upon all Somali parties concerned to put national interests above everything else, and urged them to respond immediately to Arab, Islamic, regional, and international efforts to put an end to the fighting, and to start talks on national concord which would protect the independence of fraternal Somalia, its sovereignty, and the integrity of its territories.

Meetings were held between the ministers of the two sides who were taking part in the joint committee's fourth session. In addition, meetings were held between their specialist subcommittees to examine all aspects of the two countries' relations and ways of strengthening them in all spheres. A number of decisions and recommendations were made, and they were included in the agreed minutes of this session.

The two sides expressed satisfaction that a start has been made on implementing the plan to build a sugar beet refinery in the province of al-Dahqaliyyah, which is financed by the Saudi Development Fund to the value of 207 million riyals.

The two sides also expressed their satisfaction that measures to ratify the two agreements which regulate land transport operations on passenger and goods routes, and which coordinate and regulate maritime transport operations have been completed, and that the two agreements will start being implemented on 1 September 1991.

The two sides affirmed their resolve that these two agreements will help facilitate the movement of goods and persons between the two countries in the interest of the two fraternal peoples.

During this session, the protocol for scientific and technological cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt was finally signed.

An agreement on a 64 million riyal Saudi Development Fund loan to the Arab Republic of Egypt to finance projects on the Cairo-Asyut highway was also signed.

Discussions on the technical cooperation agreement in veterinary services and animal resources between the agriculture ministries in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt were completed and the joint committee looks forward to its early signing.

Within the framework of attempts to achieve wider trade exchanges between the two fraternal countries, a protocol was signed by the economy ministers of the two countries adding new commodities to the two lists of exempt goods, and this was appended to the agreement on economic, trade, investment, and technical cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The two sides highlighted the importance of the role the private sector and businessmen in the two countries could play in consolidating the progress of economic, trade and industrial cooperation. They noted with approval the activities of the Saudi- Egypt Businessmen Joint Board in this respect.

The two sides exchanged information on the rules and regulations under which the work force is being hired in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Saudi side again said that it is willing to increase the numbers of Egyptians being employed, and will provide all facilities to achieve this aim.

The two sides welcomed what has so far been achieved in pollination and inoculation, and the training of groups of agricultural and veterinary technicians who have been trained in the Egyptian International Center for Agriculture. [as received]

The two sides expressed satisfaction with present achievements in the field of telecommunications, posts, and telephones, such as the launch of the data transfer facility between the two countries.

The two sides also expressed satisfaction over the existing postal cooperation. They agreed to continue the exchange of postal expertise between the two countries, the exchange of visits, and the employment of Egyptian postal experts in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The two sides exchanged viewpoints on cooperation with regard to new complexes and public utilities. They agreed to encourage the exchange of technical expertise in drinking water and public sewage outlets, particularly with regard to operation, maintenance, and training in these fields.

The two sides reviewed aspects of health cooperation between the two countries, and stressed their profound satisfaction that the various health links between the two countries are constantly being strengthened. They expressed their pleasure at the opening of the health attache department in the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Cairo, which will follow up aspects of health cooperation between the two countries. The two sides welcomed the recommendations reached by the technical committee of specialists from the health ministries of the two countries regarding cooperation in medicine, and the implementation of these recommendations.

The deliberations of the joint committee were conducted in an atmosphere of candor, confidence, and amity, reflecting the depth of the fraternal ties between the two sister countries.

The Egyptian side expressed gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality it enjoyed during its stay in

Saudi Arabia. It welcomed also the convening of the fifth session of the joint committee in Cairo in the month of Rabi' al-Thani 1413H, corresponding to October 1992. The Saudi side agreed.

Done in Riyadh on 9 Sha'ban 1412H, corresponding to 12 February 1992.

United Arab Emirates

* Emirates Airlines Announces Airbus Purchase

92AE0164Z Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 16 Dec 91 p 8

[Text] Dubayy—Emirates Airlines, the international airline of the United Arab Emirates, yesterday signed an agreement through which it will obtain a loan of $53.8 million from the British Bank of the Middle East to finance a deal to buy its most modern airplanes, the Airbus A310-300.

The agreement was signed in Dubayy by Shaykh Ahmad bin-Sa'id Al Maktum, president of Emirates Airlines, and David [Hoyles], executive president of the British Bank of the Middle East. The signing was also attended by Morris Flanagan, an appointed member of the board of directors of Emirates Airlines, and 'Abdallah al-Jalil Yusuf, executive vice president of the British Bank of the Middle East.

The new airplanes are slated to be delivered in January 1992, and when they are delivered, there will be seven Airbuses in Emirates Airlines. Emirates Airlines also has orders out for six more Airbuses.

Shaykh Ahmad said: "The purchase of these airplanes represents another prominent milestone in the expansion that the airline is witnessing." For his part, David [Hoyles] said, "We are happy to finance the purchase of this airplane, and I am certain that it will be another step in the increasing and successful growth of Emirates Airlines."

Final Installment of Saddam Husayn Interview

NC1402110092 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 13 Feb 92 p 7

[Fifth and final installment of a report on interview with President Saddam Husayn by HURRIYET columnist Lutfi Akdogan in Baghdad on 26 January—punctuation as published]

[Text] By now Saddam Husayn was obviously exhausted... because he took out his handgun and put it away. He then untied his scarf.

[Akdogan] Mr. President, I have tired you out....

[Saddam] "No, no... I am very pleased... it is nice to talk as close friends."

[Akdogan] Mr. President, shall we sum up what we have discussed...?

[Saddam] "All right, let us do that."

[Akdogan] We will open the Karkuk-Iskenderun oil pipeline, based on a reasonable charge for transporting oil....

We laughed then....

[Saddam] "We agree to open the pipeline, but the United Nations...."

[Akdogan] That problem is being solved....

[Saddam] "Hopefully...."

[Akdogan] I do not wish to discuss the Kurdish Workers Party [PKK]. I know that you have not supported it; nevertheless, the Turkish public believes that you are supporting the PKK.

[Saddam] "Definitely not. We do not support the PKK. These rumors are being circulated by those who dislike us, who wish to create discord between us. But we can say that individuals who are received by certain esteemed gentlemen, heads of state or prime ministers whom you regard as friends, closely cooperate with the Kurdish Workers Party. Please be aware that we do not interfere in anyone's affairs. You may receive and embrace anyone you want. But do not forget that they are trying to create discord between Iraq and Turkey.

"We will solve the Kurdish problem, as I have told Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani. Do they want to hold elections? Do they wish to reach an agreement? Let them do whatever they like as long as they agree among themselves. Your problem will start at the point where we solve our Kurdish problem. So come, let us hold three-party or four-party meetings to jointly solve this problem. I do not have a Kurdish problem nor will I... but I cannot predict what will happen later.... Iran should consider the matter carefully. Syria should do the same.... I will not be responsible for the problem that will emerge in the region.... I wish to make it known right now that we shall solve this problem quickly...."

[Akdogan] Mr. President, I understand that you are saying to Turkey, Iran, and Syria: A Kurdish problem exists in the region and makes us uneasy, so let us cooperate to solve this problem...?

What Is The Hammer Force Doing on the Border?

[Saddam] "Yes that is exactly what I mean...."

[Akdogan] Mr. President, Turkey has a security problem on its border. This has made us feel uneasy as a community and a state.... Obviously the problem originates from your border. What can we do?

[Saddam] "What should be done is very simple. First, what business does the hammer force [Poised Hammer; military force stationed in Turkey as part of the multinational coalition] have in the region? Remove that force from your borders. Then let us cooperate to establish security in the region where a vacuum will be created. The two countries can establish this security. Let your security personnel, military officials, and other pertinent individuals visit Baghdad to contact our officials and try to resolve this matter permanently.... We are prepared to contribute to anything that must be done jointly for your security and for ours...."

[Akdogan] Mr. President, I understand... oil is being smuggled through our border now. This has also made you uneasy because you do not earn foreign currency by selling oil in this way. We feel uneasy because we cannot collect taxes on the oil that comes into Turkey. How can this problem be solved?

[Saddam] That is very simple. I cannot understand why Turkey is not going to the United Nations on some of its rights? The state of your economy is obvious.... You have difficulties. You have not received the aid you expected. In view of this you can appeal to the United Nations and ask for the oil you need. A decision on that has been adopted. Jordan has benefited from it.

Ask for an Oil Quota From the United Nations

"Let us say that the United Nations refrained from giving you a quota which would meet your needs. Ask for a quota meeting the needs of Turkey's eastern provinces. We can then sell you the oil you need without any restriction. This will give Turkey's eastern provinces oil during the severe winter. We can buy foodstuffs and medicine in return. You see, we have common interests...."

[Akdogan] Will it be possible for Iraqi-Turkish business opportunities to improve after all that has happened?

[Saddam] Of course.... You should know that we spend nearly $3 billion every year to buy vegetables, fruits, and other foodstuffs from Turkey. We spent this much and purchased this much in the past, and moreover, we purchased some things on credit.... Naturally, we will return to the same system after the embargo is lifted. Simple addition shows that you stand to make $9 billion in three years. Your construction sector stands to earn $5 billion annually. It will make $15 billion in three years.

Turkey stands to gain $6 billion from the oil pipeline in three years. You can easily see that Turkey has an opportunity to make $30 billion....

"The embargo is not only Iraq's problem; it also concerns Turkey. What are you waiting for?

Let Us Find a Solution Through a Tripartite Meeting

"Mr. Suleyman Demirel will probably explain Turkey's economic situation and its trade links with Iraq during his visit to Washington. He will be defending our common interests. The question of prosperity and peace applies to both our peoples. We have to join hands to solve our problems."

[Akdogan] Mr. President, thank you very much.

[Saddam] "I wish to summarize our discussion.... We do not have ties with anarchists. Let us resolve the question of border security together. We are not concerned with the PKK. Come, let us find a joint solution. I do not have a Kurdish problem. I have reached a decision. Let us cooperate to resolve the matter because your problem will begin at the point when my problem is solved. This matter should be resolved through a tripartite or quadripartite meeting.

"The embargo is not only Iraq's problem; it also concerns Turkey. Come, let us explain this matter to the United Nations together. Demirel is an experienced statesman. He is well aware of the kind of dialogue he has to establish with the nations of the world, the United States in particular. We also want him to consider Turkey's interests. Naturally, our common interests must be safeguarded; that is, in accordance with international agreements and without offending anyone. We are aware of this.

"My final viewpoint.... If Western countries, in their contacts with Suleyman Demirel, realize their own mistakes and say they want to achieve reconciliation or to establish a line on which we can move together, then we shall gladly agree to respond."

[Akdogan] I have exhausted you....

[Saddam] "No, you have not...."

[Akdogan] I understand your final statement well.... I will try to explain it to Mr. Demirel. I want to tell you that we are aware of all the common points and interests you have mentioned. Rest assured that we are aware of them as a people and a state.... Goodbye my friend Saddam Husayn.... Oh! I am sorry. I have forgotten to mention that I have brought you one of my books and a few kilograms of honey from Turkey. I beg you to accept them....

We laughed...

[Saddam] Had you mentioned the honey earlier, our meeting would have probably been more sincere...."

[Akdogan] No, no.... We had a very sincere meeting....

[Saddam] "I convey my greetings to the Turkish people and to Mr. Demirel...."

[Akdogan] Thank you very much....

I traveled to Baghdad with a consignment of honey. I returned with a consignment of coffee from Yemen, the memory of which will last for a very long time.

During the two-and-a-half hour interview, Saddam maintained a "flexible" approach. A reconciliatory approach had replaced Saddam's previous "firm" stand. His messages complied with his approach. Here are Saddam's comments on the important topics discussed:

The Gulf war: "Naturally, we knew that Iraq would not be able to resist the most advanced technology of 33 countries. We thought all along that a last minute agreement would be reached.... We were in contact with Mitterrand and Gorbachev until the last day. We would have withdrawn from Kuwait if our rights had been recognized.... My Armed Forces and I were waiting in Kuwait. We said: 'Come and kick us out of Kuwait.' But they did not come to Kuwait. They went to Baghdad. The only people in Baghdad were women, children, and the elderly...."

The Kurdish problem: "Turkey's problems with the Kurds will begin when ours end. We should, therefore, hold tripartite or quadripartite meetings to resolve the matter. As far as I am concerned, we do not have a Kurdish problem now nor will we have one in the future.... What business does the hammer force have on the Iraqi border? Get it off our border and then come and cooperate with us to establish border security...."

The PKK: "We have not supported the PKK. We know, however, that a number of individuals, whom you believe to be friends, have close relations with the PKK.... I have informed Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani that they should do what they have to do to solve this problem. Whether they hold elections or come to a mutual agreement is up to them. I have decided. We do not have ties with anarchists. Come, let us resolve the question of border security together."

Turgut Ozal: "We were friends with Turgut Ozal until the last day. We had no problems. He was misled by U.S. scenarios and, in the end, he closed the pipeline. He said: 'We shall put one and take back 20.' We still do not understand what he meant...."

Relations with Turkey: "There are no problems between Iraq and Turkey nor will there be in the future. We have lived side by side for centuries and we have to live in the same way in the future. We have nowhere else to go and neither do the Turks.... Turkey controls the tap through which we receive our water...."

Economic cooperation: "Turkey's economy has several problems.... You can appeal to the United Nations to buy the oil you need from Iraq. We can buy foodstuffs and medicine from you in return.... Some $2 billion of our money is blocked in U.S. banks. Demirel should ask

President Bush to release our funds. Then we can immediately pay our $800 million debt to Turkey...."

'Aziz Discusses Soviet Role in Gulf War

JN1302090992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2123 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Feb (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has affirmed that the former USSR was used by the United States to peddle and carry out the plot and aggression against Iraq. In a statement to "The File" program, shown on Iraqi Television tonight, Tariq 'Aziz said that before the Gulf events in 1990, the former USSR adopted the stand of a spectator vis-a-vis the threats facing Iraq. 'Aziz said: In fact, it was an indifferent stand and similar to that of America, after the Saudi regime paid $4.5 billion to the USSR in order to drag it toward peddling all the UN Security Council resolutions against Iraq. The following is the text of the remarks made by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz:

The visit to Baghdad by Primakov on 12 February, during the aggression, cannot be separated from the overall Soviet position vis-a-vis the events. In order to understand the reality of the Soviet position, we should go back to some previous events and stands that preceded this visit by several months.

What was clear to us and what attracted our attention in 1990—before the Gulf events—is that the USSR had adopted the stand of a spectator vis-a-vis the threats Iraq was facing in 1990. These threats were known. I, as well as other colleagues, spoke on this program about the political and security threats as well as the unjust media campaign.

The USSR—as an authority and as a government—adopted an indifferent position. Soviet media participated in one way or another in such a campaign and repeated the lies propagated by the American and Western media.

When we raised the issue of the actions by the rulers imposed on Kuwait and the rulers of the Emirates with regard to the oil and oil prices, we proceeded from the fact that the USSR itself is an oil-exporting country which is concerned about the prices that would affect its economy and its hard currency revenues. We discussed this issue with the Soviet side.

We entrusted our ambassador in Moscow to contact the highest level he could reach to discuss this issue. Our ambassador met with the deputy prime minister in charge of economic affairs and raised this issue. The Soviet deputy prime minister admitted that they were harmed by the decline in prices. But what was the political position? There was no immediate response when the August events took place. The USSR supported or adopted a stand that was similar to the American position. Baker was on a visit to the USSR; he and Shevardnadze were on a visit to one of the former Soviet republics. When the events took place on 2 August, the Soviet and American ministers issued a joint statement—in the same language—on the events.

In view of the relationship between Iraq and the Soviet Union, a relationship of traditional friendship, our general assumption was that the Soviet Union adopted a policy that differed in form and in content from the U.S. imperialist policy in the region. U.S. policy is linked with Israel and Israel's ambitions. Naturally, we thought that the Soviet Union would adopt a different approach. This does not mean that it should stand by us or support all our policies. No, we did not expect that. We did expect that the Soviet Union would act like a friend. From the outset, however, it took a negative stand, and negative and hostile statements were made by Gorbachev, Shevardnadze, and other officials.

In early September, the president decided that we should contact the Soviet Union. He said that regardless of their stand toward us, contact must be made with the Soviet leadership, and we must explain the situation as we saw it. His excellency instructed me to visit Moscow. We contacted the Soviet officials, who informed us of their readiness to receive me there. I went to Moscow. Shevardnadze was abroad then, so I met with Gorbachev.

He said that he was also of the view that an Iraqi envoy should come to Moscow to exchange views because he was preparing himself for a meeting with Bush in Helsinki. Therefore, he wished to exchange views with Iraq before going to Helsinki.

Gorbachev began to explain his view of the events. He said verbatim: We will raise with the Americans our viewpoint, which does not permit a military solution.

He asked me about our view. I explained to him the circumstances which preceded 2 August. I said that Iraq was exposed to a real threat. I gave detailed examples and information about this subject. I explained the economic and technological blockade that Iraq was subjected to, as well as the plotting that was aimed against the Iraqi leadership. I explained that Iraq was threatened before 2 August, and that it was now being threatened. Therefore, I noted, the 2 August events cannot be isolated from the events that followed them and the situation that preceded them.

I said to him: You Soviets know the situation in the region well. The main reason for all problems in the region is Israel and the link between the U.S. policy and the U.S. imperialist goals on the one hand and Israel on the other. Therefore, the current situation cannot be tackled unless we deal with it on a comprehensive basis. I told him that President Saddam Husayn had launched the 12 August initiative, which called for a comprehensive settlement of all problems of the region.

I told him that at the beginning that they welcomed this initiative. In fact, Shevardnadze had made a positive statement concerning the initiative, but he later changed his position. I suggested that the Soviet Union take the initiative and act in accordance with the 12 August

initiative. I told him: These are our ideas and proposals. We are open to any Soviet proposals. What would you like to add to these proposals and ideas? We are ready to discuss any new ideas in order to reach a comprehensive settlement in the region, and to live in peace and stability just as you seek to do in your region and in Europe.

With regard to the similar situation that was prevailing in the Gulf or in Kuwait, they had a different opinion. I told him: At any rate, we are not asking the Soviet Union to be biased toward us, nor do we ask you to wage the battles that we, as Iraqis and Arabs, must wage. We ask you to understand our situation and position. We ask you to adopt a position to curb U.S. excesses. We also ask the Soviet Union not to take part in the U.S. campaign against us, particularly at the Security Council, which issued successive resolutions against Iraq. Passing such resolutions would not have been possible without the Soviet Union's participation.

After our first visit to Moscow, we expected the Soviet Union to adjust its position to a more appropriate one with regard to the proposals we presented there. We were informed that the Soviet president had chosen Primakov to visit Iraq as a presidential envoy. He came to Baghdad and asked to meet with the leader president. A meeting actually took place. We had known Primakov for a long time. President Gorbachev chose him for this task because he knew us and we knew him. He was a correspondent for PRAVDA in the Middle East during the 1950's. He speaks Arabic, though not fluently. He speaks and understands Arabic. I had known him since 1969, when I was chief editor of AL-THAWRAH. He used to come to Iraq occasionally.

Sometimes, he made unofficial visits. At that time, he was assigned to follow up on the Kurdish issue and the issue of a peaceful, political solution to the Kurdish issue. During that period, he became acquainted with the president, who received him several times. He used to convey unofficial messages from the Soviet leadership. He stopped coming to Iraq in the 1970's and 1980's, when he was assigned several undeclared and unofficial tasks. This time he came in his official capacity. Then, he was a member of the Supreme Soviet Presidium with no official rank. Primakov came to Baghdad. He met with the leader president on 6 October 1990. Primakov said verbatim: In Helsinki, Gorbachev discussed political action with Bush and closely examined resolving this issue. He expressed a desire to link the situation in the Gulf with Middle East issues, primarily the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Among the things Primakov said, citing the Soviet leadership and Gorbachev, was that it was in the interest of the Soviet Union that Iraq be a regional power. The leader president asked Primakov whether Gorbachev was successful in achieving the linkage. Primakov's answer was indecisive, saying that Gorbachev insisted that resolving the Gulf crisis would give a boost to the solution of other issues in the region and to creating a balanced world order.

His excellency the president told him: You know well that other crises and disputes in the region preceded the Gulf events, and that they were the cause of the Gulf events, which were not the result of a new dispute in the region, but the outcome of previous disputes and the situation that preceded 2 August. He explained in an objective and quiet manner and through a friendly and positive approach that we respect the Soviet Union because it understands Arab causes. He said: We were forced into what happened in August because we were threatened. His excellency the president explained to Primakov the smallest details of the threats that had been posed to Iraq's security, economy, and the livelihood of its people before 2 August. Therefore, his excellency the president stressed the objective linkage between these issues, and that the solution of the Palestine question is linked with Iraq's security. He explained that Iraq cannot be secure, stable, and prosperous without finding a just solution to the Palestine question and without the achievement of regional security based on peace and stability. In the search for a solution to the existing crisis, his excellency the president said: You should think of one of three alternatives: You either look for an Arab solution to the crisis, work to hold an international conference on the basis of the 12 August initiative, or launch a Soviet initiative which would clearly link the situation in the Gulf and the Palestine question, provided that Iraq's rights are clearly addressed.

When he arrived on his first visit, Primakov carried no specific ideas, but came to explore the possibility of a political solution to the crisis. We explained our stand to him. As I said, the leader president said that there were three approaches to dealing with the problem: an Arab solution, an international conference on the basis of the 12 August initiative, or a Soviet proposal to take the reins of initiative by presenting a plan to resolve the region's issues, taking into consideration the linkage between these issues and Iraq's rights. Primakov left Baghdad. He toured European capitals; flew to Washington, where he met with Bush; and met with Thatcher in London. Afterward, he returned to the region. Before visiting Baghdad, he met with Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak.

He came to Baghdad to sum up the situation. When he met with the leader president on 28 October, he summed up the situation as he saw it in the capitals which he visited. He said that the Western states' stand could be summed up as follows: They insisted on war, and Iraq should either implement the UN Security Council resolutions, or these states, especially the United States, were determined to adopt the military option. He said that the European states would follow the United States, and that Britain's stand was extremely aggresaive. We asked him: What do you recommend? He said: I recommend that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait upon an Arab request; that is, an Arab conference would be held, and this conference would ask Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. The president asked him: Then what? What about the Palestine question and Iraq's rights?

He said: These issues could be discussed later. His answers were contradictory. The president said to him: There is no clarity in your talk and proposals on the Palestine question and Iraq's rights. You are asking us to surrender just like that. The president added: You, the USSR, should adopt an honorable and just solution that is in harmony with Arab-Soviet friendship and with your position as a superpower. In the first meeting, I proposed three options: an Arab solution, an international conference on the basis of the 12 August initiative, or a Soviet initiative. The president then spoke in detail about the situation in the world and in the region. He said: You in Europe, how do you tackle your problems? You seek to achieve peace and a balance in interests. Why do you not give the Arabs such an opportunity? The president asked Primakov to convey these ideas again to President Gorbachev, hoping that the USSR would embark on endeavors in this direction.

Primakov departed. He left Iraq and we heard no results from the USSR. At the Security Council, the USSR participated, as in the past, in the resolutions and stands imposed by the United States. There was no change in the Soviet political and media stands.

To follow up the Soviet position, in November the U.S. secretary of state embarked on large-scale activities in the capitals of the Security Council members to issue a resolution, in accordance with which the Security Council would authorize the United States to launch military aggression against Iraq.

We received a request from the USSR to send an Iraqi envoy or the foreign minister on a visit to Moscow to exchange opinions. When we received the request, the president decided to send me to Moscow. He told me: Go and see what the Soviets have.

I arrived in Moscow on 26 November and held a four-hour meeting with Shevardnadze. He explained the grave situation, as he described it, adding that the permanent members were determined to issue a strong resolution, as he termed it.

Here, I would like to read a very important text in order to understand subsequent events. Shevardnadze said: There are two formulas for action. The first is that the work will be done within the framework of the Security Council. The Council will issue a resolution, follow it up, and implement it. The second formula is that the United States and its allies will work alone. He said: If we take part in the resolution which is being drafted, our motive is that we want the Security Council to control the course of events and that we do not want the United States to act alone. When he spoke about a way out, he did not propose anything. His only proposal was that Iraq should implement the unjust resolutions that were issued without any discussion or serious understanding of the other issues in the region—the issues that created the crises that were present at that time.

We once again explained our position. We explained our position to Gorbachev in September. Shevardnadze was not present. The president explained our position to Primakov twice during his two visits to Baghdad. Now we explained our position in detail to Shevardnadze as a colleague. We said that the way out was through a comprehensive settlement. We also discussed the Arab solution. I told him: Why do you not support an Arab solution? When Primakov came to Baghdad, the president told him that there were three formulas, among which was the Arab solution. Shevardnadze said: I sent envoys to a number of Arab states, and there is no chance for an Arab solution. I said: Yes, because America is disrupting the Arab solution. I told him: A few days ago, in November, King Hassan II, King Husayn, and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid held a meeting in Morocco.

The meeting aimed to seek an Arab solution. America disrupted this meeting. It exerted pressure to thwart it. I told him: We ask you to draw up a Soviet plan—a plan which we as Iraqis and Arabs would feel is just and balanced, and is of benefit to all parties in the region. We are ready to discuss such a plan. Iraq does not reject a political solution. On the contrary, Iraq's position calls for a political solution. The political solution, however, must be a comprehen..ive one which takes into consideration the stances and interests of all parties.

Regarding the Soviet stance, I told him: Comrade Shevardnadze, listen to me well. You say you are obliged to vote on Security Council resolutions; that America insists on what it has planned; and that you have no effect, or not a strong effect, on the American stance. I told Shevardnadze: I heard this from the president of an Arab state. Actually, before I visited Moscow, I was on a visit to an Arab state which I do not want to name. This state, however, was fully aware of the U.S. contacts and the Gulf states' positions.

The president of this state told me verbatim: Bush told someone—the Arab president mentioned to me the name of this person but I do not wish to disclose it here—I cannot go to war with Iraq unless there is a factor; namely, that the Soviet Union sides with us and that the human losses are not big. This is what I told Shevardnadze. Of course, Shevardnadze was not pleased, and said that it was not true, and that what we were hearing were only stories.

Before the issuance of the resolution, they said that they wanted to exchange views before Shevardnadze flew to New York to participate in the UN Security Council meeting, which was held on the foreign ministers level, to issue the resolution, which was issued on the 29th. I said to Shevardnadze: Bush says that he cannot go to war with Iraq if the Soviet Union does not side with him. What is your stand? You say you are a friend of Iraq, that you are concerned about Iraq, and that you reject war. I said to him and to Gorbachev that we were not surprised that America wanted to commit aggression against Iraq. America planned for the aggression against Iraq before 2 August. America, Israel, Margaret Thatcher, and all the imperialist Zionist gang planned to hit Iraq one way or

another. That was before the 2 August events. But what about you? You are a friendly state and have long-standing relations with Iraq. With the Arab countries, you have always advocated a peaceful settlement of the situation in the Middle East. Now it is absolutely clear that the United States cannot commit aggression unless it receives Soviet approval. You can prevent such approval. A resolution is now being prepared authorizing the United States to launch an aggression against Iraq. You can prevent that. He said they would participate in that resolution.

After the meeting with the foreign minister, we went to meet with Gorbachev.

At the first meeting, Gorbachev was calm and exchanged views and listened in a natural manner. Moreover, the meeting, which was scheduled to last one hour, lasted about two hours. This time, Gorbachev was tense and did not demonstrate any serious readiness to listen. He interrupted me. He interrupted me while I was talking. I was compelled to respond to him in the same manner. He rejected any serious effort by the Soviet Union toward establishing a link among the region's issues. He said: Resolve this issue, and we will see later. I have promises from America, etc. I said no Arab leader can trust U.S. promises.

I said: For 40 years, the Americans have made promises to the Arabs. Every new U.S. president says he will do something to resolve the Middle East issue. But presidents come and go, while the Palestine question remains unresolved, and the principles of fairness and justice remain unobserved. Meanwhile, the Israeli occupation and the Israeli threats to us and to others in the region are continuing. He interrupted me again. The meeting lasted about 50 minutes. With half the time spent interpreting, this means that the meeting lasted 20 to 25 minutes.

After I left Moscow following my meeting with Gorbachev, Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived. During the visit, he paid $4 billion to the USSR. I met with Gorbachev on Monday, 26 November. On 27 November, Sa'ud al-Faysal came and paid $4 billion. During my visit to the Arab country which I hinted at, the Arab country which was aware of the American Gulf contacts, the president and foreign minister of that country—to be precise the foreign minister—told me that America instructed Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states to pay the USSR $7 billion so that the USSR would peddle the resolution which was being drafted.

Saudi Arabia's share was $4 billion. Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived the day after I left and paid $4 billion. Shevardnadze left for New York on 28 November; on 29 November, the USSR voted in favor of Resolution 678, in accordance with which the United States launched the aggression against Iraq.

That was the last meeting between Iraq and the USSR. No further meetings were held until Primakov came to Iraq on 12 February 1991, more than three weeks after the beginning of the aggression.

The first visit by Primakov was, as I said, to explore whether the Iraqi leadership was ready to search for a political settlement to the so-called crisis. The president's answer was clear: Yes. Yes, Iraq seeks a political settlement of the crisis. The president told him: We waged an eight-year war with Iran. We are aware of the pains, sacrifices, and losses of war. We, our people, and the leadership seek peace, but which peace? We seek peace for Iraq, peace for the Arab nation, and peace for the Palestinian Arab people. As I said, the president presented three methods to reach such a peace.

Primakov left and came back again. All he said was what Bush, Margaret Thatcher, Mitterrand, Andreotti, and this person or that person said. The president asked him: What do you say? What does Gorbachev say? What is the Soviet Union's position on what this or that person says? If we refer to the official text of the minutes, when Shevardnadze talks about the United States, he says "we and our American partners." They behaved as partners of the United States, not as an independent state with a special and distinguished viewpoint on international events, and not as a state with friendly relations with Iraq or any other country in the region.

It was a state that had previously committed itself to being against Israeli aggressiveness, and against the U.S. policy of controlling the region and imposing imperialist hegemony over it. Until that time, from an official aspect, the Soviet Union had not withdrawn all these slogans. Had the Soviet Union officially and openly withdrawn these slogans and announced itself a party to the Western alliance and U.S. policy, we would have regarded it like Britain and the other European states associated with U.S. policy. Every now and then, however, the Soviet Union claimed to have an independent and distinguished position. In his talk, Shevardnadze said: We are friends; we are concerned with Iraq, concerned that it remains strong, and concerned that is has an important role in the region.

When we told him that Iraq is concerned with resolving the Palestine question through a just solution, and that we were ready, he said: No, go and implement what the United States requested. Later, we will see what we can do about the Palestine question. So we deduce how it transpired. Maybe in the second meeting, we would reach comprehensive conclusions. The Soviet Union was used by the United States to pass and prepare for the aggression on Iraq.

UN Nuclear Team Detects No 'Suspicious' Activity

NC1302192392 Paris AFP in English 1849 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 13 (AFP) - A United Nations inspection team Thursday completed a 10-day mission to Iraq and said it had detected no suspicious underground nuclear activity.

"We went to suspect sites where we used sophisticated equipment and methods to detect the slightest underground (nuclear) activity, but we found nothing," said delegation leader Maurizio Zifferero of Italy, according to an Arabic translation of his remarks made available here.

He added that the 37-member team, on the 10th such mission to Iraq since the end of the Gulf war a year ago, "did not find an underground nuclear reactor."

In Manama, where the mission travelled later Thursday, a United Nations official said the mission had detected "nothing abnormal, for the moment."

Team members also met with Iraqi authorities on the capacity and location of nuclear facilities in the country.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY on Tuesday reported that the inspectors on Monday had visited the prison in the northern city of Mosul looking for a reactor but found none.

The visits are part of post-Gulf war U.N. efforts to oversee the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Statement on Chemical Inspection Reported

JN1202142792 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] New York, Feb. 12, INA—The U.N Special Committee confirmed that the seventh inspection operation of Iraq's chemical potentials proved the nonexistence of any evidences or activity linked to the Security Council Resolution No. 687.

A committee statement issued here on Tuesday said the results were reached by the inspection teams which had visited Iraq from Jan. 27 till Feb. 4 and inspected a total of ten sites throughout Iraq.

Report Said To Expose 'Slanders'

JN1402115792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Feb (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has affirmed that the inspection teams' reports have exposed American slanders against Iraq. These reports represent a clear denunciation of Bush's cruel desire to perpetuate the aggression against Iraq. In an article published today under the headline "The Rope of Aggression is Like the Rope of Lying," the newspaper says: Washington's political and media organs, as well as Bush himself, propagated slanders on Iraq's possible possession of nuclear weapons, which so far the international inspection teams have not found despite their continuous and sudden visits to Iraq, totaling 10 trips in all.

The paper says that to judge this we should study the reports on the activities of these teams to find that they are full of contradictions that refute the daily American clamor on Iraq's ability to manufacture a nuclear bomb. Yesterday, a new heresy was added when it was claimed that Iraq is capable of manufacturing two nuclear bombs rather than just one.

The paper says: Let us read together this report, which exposes the intentions of Bush and his administration: The report begins by claiming that the international inspectors are still searching for a missing nuclear reactor in Iraq which, according to a THE NEW YORK TIMES report citing U.S. and Western intelligence reports, can produce sufficient quantities of uranium to produce two nuclear bombs each year.

AL-THAWRAH says: After this allegation, which was recommended by the intelligence departments to justify the continuation of the unjust blockade on the people of Iraq, the same report admits that Rolf Ekeus, the nuclear expert at the United Nations, said that the teams entrusted with this mission—in which the Americans represent 38-68 percent of the total—have thus far not found anything to this effect. They also did not find evidence to storm more Iraqi civilian sites or pan-Arab scientific institutions, long hosted in Baghdad, to seize the alleged reactor.

The paper adds: Washington and its intelligence organs deluded the international inspection teams into thinking that al-Mosul prison houses a nuclear reactor. Thus, the experts of the 10th team inspected the entire prison and reached the same miserable conclusion, namely, that the prison houses no secret reactor. Meanwhile, the prisoners received the experts with slogans denouncing the United States and Bush.

The paper says: THE NEW YORK TIMES, the newspaper of excitement that always propagates the aggressive U.S. logic, cites the inspectors of this team as saying that they were disappointed and will leave Baghdad in failure, after they believed the rumor spread by the representatives of the U.S. Administration in the inspection teams. These teams are called international even though they are American in intention and action.

UN Representative Pays 'Courtesy Visit' to Ghali

JN1202210692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] United Nations, 12 Feb (INA)—'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative to the UN, met Wednesday with the secretary general, Dr. Butrus Ghali.

In a statement to INA, Ambassador al-Anbari said his call was a courtesy visit after Dr. Ghali assumed his duties.

Health Minister Meets UNDP, WHO Officials

JN1302175692 Baghdad INA in English 1730 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 13, INA—Iraqi Health Minister Dr Omid Midhat Mubarak met today the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] in Iraq.

During the meeting discussion focused on the development programme being carried out by the international organisation in the health councils and social affairs for offering humanitarian aids.

The minister has also met the representative of the World Health Organisation [WHO] on the expiry of his term of office in Iraq. The minister spoke about the medicinal aids Iraq was getting from international and humanitarian organisations, pointing that those aids did not meet but 5-10 per cent of Iraq's need of medicines and medical requirements.

Red Cross Report on Health Situation 'Grim'

JN1002155292 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 10, INA—A recent report on the situation in Iraq following the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq has drawn a grim picture over the country's health situation.

The report conducted by Professor Marco Mumenthaler [name as received] from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said that the health situation was rather bad at the seven hospitals in Iraq visited by his mission.

The English language newspaper "THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" quoted the report as saying that up to August 1990, the hospitals were, as a rule, always full. At the time of visit last October they were all operating at 50 per cent capacity, the report said.

The report cited an example of an obstetrics ward whose admissions of patients dropped from 11,000 per cent a year [as received] before the war to 2,000, most of those emergency cases.

"The reasons are lack of medicines, surgical supplies, diagnostic possibilities, personnel and food", the report explained.

It said most medicines and medical supplies had run out. This was particularly true of antibiotics, especially antibiotic syrups used in pediatrics, medication for heart and circulatory conditions, insulin, antiepileptics and analgesics, it addd.

According to several hospital pharmacists, only about 30 per cent of needs for medicines were being met by state deliveries. The lack of medication to treat less common illnesses also had serious consequences: At one dialysis centre which also treated kidney transplant patients, all the transplant patients had died for want of immunosuppressants. Of the 45 patients suffering from renal insufficiency and undergoing regular dialysis, nine had died because there was no dialysis fluid or because they could not be transported to the centre.

The shortage of anticoagulants made it impossible to treat cases of thrombosis (cardiac and other), and patients who had been treated for years for chronic lymphatic leukaemia had died for lack of antimitotics, the report said.

It went on to say that because surgical instruments, gloves, sutures, drains, dressings, cannulae, intravenous solutions and anaesthetic material (N20 relaxant, anaesthetic apparatus, oxygen, monitors, respirators) were in short supply, only emergency operations and minor surgery were being performed.

The number of operations had decreased on average by one third since the war, it said adding they type of surgery, moreover, was different, with a larger proportion of urgent and often serious cases. This and the higher number of complications had caused a rise in mortality.

The complications were caused, for example, by the fact that gloves which previously had been thrown out after one use were now resteralized several times, resulting in infections made more serious by the lack of antibiotics to treat them, the report explained.

Mr Mumenthaler said in his report that in some hospitals the lack of anaesthetic, surgical supplies and postoperative care for serious cases means that only minor surgery is carried out. "In one surgical hospital in Karbala', for example, 27 per cent of cases in september 1990 involoved major surgery, that figure had fallen to 14 per cent by September 1991. [punctuation as received]

On the other hand, the number of cases, involving minor surgery had risen to 30 per cent from 9 per cent in 1990.

On death toll the report said mortality varies from one sector to another. On one surgical ward in northern Iraq, 10 per cent of those operated on and no fewer than 40 per cent of those admitted had died. On one maternity ward deaths among mothers had risen by 1 to 3 per cent, and in another ward perinatal mortality, put at 17.2 per cent in the period 1987-1989 had jumped to 28 per cent, the report said.

Another reason for admitting only urgent cases was that the shortage or breakdown of apparatus and laboratory equipment severly limited the possibilities for establishing a diagnosis in hospital services, it said adding this was particularly true for internal medicine. The problem was compounded by lack of medication to treat the illnesses finally diagnosed, it explained.

Also the hospitals are lacking food supplies for their patients. "One hospital had used up its entire food budget for the year at the time of our visit in late

October. Some hospitals asked the patients' families to bring food (no easy task), while others relied heavily on donations from foreign non-governmental organizations. They had all reduced rations to a minimum. [punctuation as received]

Mr Mumenthaler said apparatus and equipment were often out of order becase there were no spare parts or means of making adequate repairs.

"In one hospital, five out of 14 x-ray machines were out of order. At another, the scanner had been not used for over one year. In one intensive care unit, the central monitoring system was no longer working. The neurosurgical ward had received scanner parts eighteen months previously, we saw them on crates in the corridor. The scanner had not been assembled because only a technician from the manufacturer can do this. In the neonatology unit only six out of ten incubators were functioning".

Laboratories were unable to work normally because of faulty equipment or lack of reagents, the report said adding one blood transfusion centre had had to produce blood products without testing for certain diseases, such as AIDS.

There was a shortage of nursing staff, for a number of reasons namely many of the nurses had been foreigners, coming mainly from the Philippines, Cuba and the Indian subcontinent, and they had gone home, the report said.

Nurses' salaries were low compared with other professions for young women, and for reasons related to local customs Iraqi women do not like to work in hospitals. There was not enough cleaning staff, given the very low salaries paid by the state for that type of work.

The report said it should be stressed that considerable efforts had been made in most of the hospitals.

"Reconstruction work, restoration and repairs were under way or had been completed. Demonstrating much good sense and commitment at all levels, hospital staff had continued to work, with what was to hand, finding creative and innovative solutions to the practical problems arising from the general lack of resources", the report said.

Oil Minister Discusses Market, Leaves for Geneva

JN0902135092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Feb (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti left for Geneva today to participate in the sixth meeting of the OPEC ministerial monitoring committee, scheduled to be held on 12 February.

In a statement to INA, the minister noted that this meeting is significant, given that it comes at a time when the oil market is experiencing a sharp fall in oil prices. The organization has so far failed to find a solution that would put an end to this drop in prices, producing a collapse in oil prices in the international market similar to that of 1986. The harm caused by this issue will not be limited to OPEC member states. It will also include a number of developing countries whose economies depend on their oil exports. Among these countries are Arab states such as Egypt, Yemen, and Oman.

The minister stressed that since late October 1991, the price of a barrel of oil has fallen by as much as $4.50, with the result that the OPEC oil basket price has dropped to $16.65 a barrel, despite the onset of winter. Certain nations, specifically Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, however, have continued to overproduce, leading to an overall OPEC production exceeding 24.1 million barrels per day [BPD], even taking into account the suspension in Iraqi oil exports due to the iniquitous embargo.

Only an immediate and rapid cutback of around 1.5 million BPD in 1992 will avert a collapse in prices in the second half of this year, factoring in the possible resumption of Iraqi oil exports. He emphasized that the cutbacks set by the July 1990 OPEC agreement, which established the OPEC basket price at $21 per barrel and fixed the production quotas of the member states, must be fair to ensure that the countries exceeding their production quota bear the brunt of the cuts. He noted that certain OPEC members had broken the agreement, using Iraq's special circumstances as a pretext to raise their production levels.

It should be recalled that during the last ministerial OPEC meeting in October 1991, Iraq warned that supply outstripped demand by some 1.5 million BPD—as forcast by Iraq—causing prices to plummet.

Interviewed on Exports, Reserves

JN1202101592 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Feb 91 p 14

["Text" of interview with Oil Minister Usamah al-Hiti, "currently on a private visit to Jordan," by Mundhir 'Alawinah; date not given]

[Text] ['Alawinah] Why did Iraq refuse last week to negotiate its oil sales with the United Nations?

[Al-Hiti] Iraq did not refuse to negotiate with the United Nations last week. Iraq's position has been clearly stated by Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative to the UN. Iraq was, as usual, serious and frank about its propositions on cooperation to find a practical, honorable formula and mechanism. Apparently this was not the intention of the other party, especially given the fact that the United Nations will deduct a very large sum of the oil-exporting process, leaving only small amounts of money that are totally insufficient to purchase food and medicine.

['Alawinah] Oil prices are now higher than they were in 1990—something which Iraq has always demanded. What is your comment?

[Al-Hiti] This is not true, because the average price for 1990 was $22.26 per barrel, while the average price for 1991 was $18.65 per barrel, given also that during January 1992 prices dropped to $16.50 per barrel, which is less than $21—the lowest price of the OPEC oil basket, as agreed on by all OPEC conferences.

['Alawinah] Given the economic embargo which has been imposed on Iraq for more than a year and a half, what is Iraq going to do regarding its foreign trade, particularly its food imports?

[Al-Hiti] Iraq rejects interference in its domestic affairs. It also rejects the attempts of some parties to control, one way or another, Iraq's natural resources, because these resources are owned by the Iraqi people alone. Despite the unjust economic embargo, which we reject, we have adapted many aspects of the Iraqi economy to self-sufficiency. God willing, it will not be long before we are fully self-sufficient. We are currently working to mobilize all the energies of the Iraqi economy to fight the unjust blockade and transform its negative aspects into added factors to revitalize national production.

['Alawinah] Oil was one of the reasons behind the aggression against Iraq. How do you view the importance of oil in the future, and what is the future of Iraqi oil?

[Al-Hiti] The U.S. plan was, and still is, to control oil resources in the Gulf. Recent developments have proven that this is the basic U.S. objective, given that now it is almost in full control of an area that contains half of the world's oil reserves. We believe that the importance of oil will increase in coming years, given that the Arabian Gulf is the only region in the world that can satisfy any increase in world demand for oil.

['Alawinah] How are the Iraqi people doing these days?

[Al-Hiti] They are all right, thank God. Our two-year steadfastness in the face of the most unjust, fierce campaign and military aggression, in addition to the unjust economic blockade, has clearly demonstrated our solid position and enormous power to face all conspiracies and overcome all difficulties created by malicious hands.

['Alawinah] Are Iraqi ports ready to export oil if the blockade is lifted?

[Al-Hiti] Two jetties at al-Bakr Port on the Arabian Gulf have been made operable, with a total loading capacity of 800,000 barrels per day. These jetties can be used once the unjust blockade is lifted.

['Alawinah] How do you look at the future?

[Al-Hiti] The future of Iraq as an oil-exporting country will be of great significance, in light of Iraq's established oil reserves, which amount to more than 100 billion barrels. This represents 10 percent of the world's oil reserves, and given that Iraq, prior to the 30-state Atlantic aggression, was the world's second oil-exporting nation. In addition, Iraq enjoys political weight in the region, given its strategic location, civilization, and the human and economic resources that make it capable of rising economically to the level of the advanced nations. Iraq is right; we will struggle to show that we are right, and we are absolutely certain that time is on our side.

Al-Dawrah Refinery Output Capacity Reported

JN0802120892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] [No dateline as received] A responsible source at the State Enterprise for Oil Refining in the central region has announced that the production capacity for refining crude oil at the al-Dawrah Refinery has reached 5 million tonnes per year. He added that the refinery's production capacity of lubricant oils has reached 150,000 tonnes per year.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, Kamil Ja'far al-Fatli, director general of the State Enterprise for Oil Refining, said that engineering, technical, and oil cadres have managed to secure complete production stability in all production lines at the al-Dawrah Refinery, and to cope with the technical difficulties that emerged after it began operating at full capacity following its rehabilitation.

Al-Fatli pointed out that the al-Dawrah Refinery, which is an important affiliate of the state enterprise, sustained great damage as a result of the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression on Iraq. He added: This war damage included 10 to 100 percent damage to the complementary refining units and 80 percent damage to the piping networks. Immense damage exceeding 50 percent was also sustained by the oil lubricants refineries. Moreover, 40 reservoirs with a total storage capacity of 80,000 cubic [as received], as well as three others with floating roofs, were burned and damaged.

Regime Reportedly Mined Karkuk Oil Wells

NC0802170992 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] According to reports reaching us, the regime recently mined the oil wells in Karkuk on the pretext that Peshmerga and coalition forces intend to enter that city. The regime will blow up the oil wells if these forces enter Karkuk.

The reports said the regime has also deployed its forces in Karkuk's streets and squares. These forces have begun searching cars bearing Irbil Governorate license plates, and seizing car bearing new plates. The regime is relying on the police, traffic, security, and intelligence forces to carry out this task.

The reports also said the regime has begun to install lights on the bridges in Karkuk, especially those on Baghdad Road, for night use.

The reports added that the regime has begun transferring banks from Karkuk to other cities.

Government Troops Said To Withdraw

NC1202161292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] The tyrant's troops, security men, and civilian and military authorities withdrew from Karkuk yesterday, in a move to contain the pressure from the armed opposition, which is spread throughout the city's suburbs. Meanwhile, the United States continues to call on the defeated tyrant Saddam Husayn to relinquish power.

According to reliable reports from the opposition in northern Iraq, the defeated regime pulled all helicopters at Karkuk's military airport out of the region as part of a large-scale operation to transfer military units and centers from the heart of Karkuk to [word indistinct] areas near Tikrit. The same reports indicate that the headquarters of the First Division in Karkuk was evacuated early last week in complete secrecy, while the grain stores were transferred to the areas of [place name indistinct] near Tikrit, so that they might not fall into the hands of the armed opposition forces that are deployed in the city's suburbs. The reports add that the tyrant's authorities took up fortified positions inside the city and gathered the families of senior officials at the al-Sharq al-Awsat Hotel in preparation for sending them to safer areas outside the city. The reports point out that this step on the part of the tyrant's regime surprised observers, who believe that the dictator Saddam Husayn expects a lightning air strike against Karkuk by the alliance.

Jerusalem Mayor Rejects Building Freeze in City

TA1402064092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Yesterday Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek denounced the remarks of a high-level U.S. official who said that building in East Jerusalem is tantamount to building in the territories and that the United States demands a freeze on it. Our correspondent Gil Litman spoke to Teddy Kollek:

[Begin recording] [Litman] It is inconceivable that we should stop building in Jerusalem, said the mayor, and he was referring to all areas of Jerusalem. After all, it makes no sense for the city's planning and building authorities to plan houses for Arabs while Jewish building in adjacent neighborhoods is banned. Teddy Kollek warned: The statement attributed to the high-level U.S. official may prove to be counterproductive.

[Kollek] The whole business is absurd. Such statements can only heighten tension. If I were in the 'Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva's shoes, the first thing I would do upon hearing such words would clearly be to try to settle any piece of land that I could lay my hands on as fast as possible. On the other hand, upon seeing this, the Arabs would also take action. This could only lead to tension and clashes in the city. Is this what they want?

[Litman] Teddy Kollek does not know who the high-level official is, but he intends to approach the highest official in the State Department.

[Kollek] Ultimately, I will probably approach the secretary of state on the issue and ask him what he has in mind. We may also ask some senator or congressman familiar with the issue to raise it in the U.S. Senate or Congress.

[Litman] The mayor volunteered his own explanation for the timing and reasons behind the statement:

[Kollek] The elections, both here and in the United States, have something to do with the matter.

[Litman] Not to worry, the mayor promised. The pounding of the masons' hammers will continue to be heard in Gilo, Neve Ya'aqov, East Talpiyot, and in Ramat Eshkol, and everything will quietly return to normal. [end recording]

Washington officials conversant with the U.S.-Israeli negotiations regarding the guarantees said last night that the question of Jerusalem did not come up in last week's talk between Secretary Baker and Ambassador Shoval. Therefore, it remains unclear whether the Americans are demanding a freeze on construction in East Jerusalem as well.

Poll Shows Favorite Candidates in Likud, Labor

TA1402120292 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] The Dahaf Institute, under the management of Dr. Mina Tzemah, conducted a telephone poll of a representative sample of 500 people on 11, 12, and 13 February. The poll asked the following questions:

1) If the Likud forms the next government, who would you want to be prime minister (answers in percentages)?

	Total Public	Likud Voters	Labor Voters	Floating Votes
Shamir	51	58	50	51
Levi	30	25	35	27
Sharon	17	17	6	18

2) If Labor forms the next government, who would you want to be prime minister?

	Total Public	Labor Voters	Likud Voters	Floating Votes
Peres	24	42	15	18
Rabin	53	44	65	51
Namir	13	9	6	19
Qeysar	6	3	8	8

Note: The "floating votes" column indicates the tendencies of respondents who are still undecided.

Official Denies Cairo Center Engages in Espionage

TA1402110492 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Feb 92 p A5

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] Dr. Yosef Ginat, head of Israel's Academic Center in Cairo, returned to Israel last night via the Rafah border crossing. In an interview with HA'ARETZ, he said that documents stolen from the Israeli information center in Cairo have reached the Egyptian press. One of the documents was even published in a Nasirite paper in Egypt.

Dr. Ginat addressed himself to the rumor, spread by Egyptian opposition papers, that the information center is in fact an Israeli spy center. "Opposition papers have been and still are claiming that the Academic Center is merely a cover for an Israeli spy center. In the two and a half years that I have been stationed in Egypt, I have heard various claims regarding the center. In the last couple of months, however, we have been hearing an increasing number of rumors. The Nasirite paper MISR AL-FATAH—a paper with a rather small circulation—has been reporting for over a month, in its inside pages, that the Academic Center is in fact a spy center."

Dr. Ginat noted that documents from the Israeli Academic Center have reached that newspaper. "I would not

like to go into detail on this issue," he said. "It must be remembered that many people visit the place, and it is thriving. The center has not been broken into. Someone must have taken ordinary mail out of one of the rooms, and it was published later in MISR AL-FATAH under the headline 'top secret' to create the impression that the information center is some kind of military organization. The funny part is that the document was about Hebrew studies at the Ulpan 'Aqiva school. We issue grants to this school, through the Ministry of Agriculture and other ministries, to Egyptian graduates, people in the tourism business, and others. The Nasirite paper has published several letters on this issue written even before I came to the center, when Prof. Shim'on Shamir established it and Asher 'Ovadya directed it." [passage omitted]

Agriculture Agreement Signed With Egypt

TA1302111192 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 Feb 92 p 7

[ITIM report]

[Excerpts] Israel and Egypt have decided to carry out a series of joint agricultural projects, to pursue ongoing projects, and to continue the special Israeli training courses for Egyptian university graduates.

An agreement to this effect was achieved in a meeting of the joint Israeli-Egyptian agricultural committee at the end of the Egyptian delegation's three-day visit to Israel. The delegation was headed by Fu'ad Abu-Ahdab [name as published] and included senior Agriculture Ministry representatives. The delegates toured the holy sites of Jerusalem and met with a group of Egyptian students in Kibbutz Hulda. [passage omitted]

The joint committee, which has been active since 1980, has been holding periodic meetings.

Minister Invited to PRC To Sign Trade Pacts

TA1202204492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister Moshe Nisim has been invited to visit the PRC and sign trade agreements. Our correspondent Meron Tzur reports that the director of PRC Foreign Trade Institute, who is currently visiting Israel, expressed the hope that Minister Nisim would visit the PRC before elections in Israel.

Flights Said Within Three Months

TA1102122192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] China is ready to allow direct El Al flights between Lod and Beijing within three months. This was stated by China's deputy premier to Isi Liebler, cochairman of the World Jewish Congress, this morning. China is also prepared for charter flights and, later, regular flights from Israel to China.

Classified Material Stolen From Weapons Authority

TA1302140692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] This afternoon it was revealed that the police have detained an employee of REFA'EL, the Armament Development Authority, for stealing classified material from his work place. The man is Yitzhaq Segev, 50, from Haifa. He was detained by the Misgav police station, and today his detention was extended by eight days. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz has been told that the suspect is cooperating with his interrogators.

Ari'el Nearly To Double in Size by End of 1992

TA1202124292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Feb 92 p C3

[Report by 'Eran Salomon]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Ron Nahman, head of the Ari'el local council, said yesterday that the construction of 1,000 apartments will be completed by July 1992 and another 1,500 apartments will be completed by the end of the year. When all these apartments are occupied, Ari'el's population will increase from its current 11,000 to 20,000 at the end of 1992.

At present, 84 factories employing 2,500 workers operate in the Barqan industrial zone. Only one-third of the workers come from Ari'el, while the others are either Arabs from the territories or Israelis residing in the center of the country. [passage omitted]

Work is currently under way to add 120 dunams to the industrial zone. The science complex in the eastern part of Ari'el is slowly being occupied. Current tenants include the Ari'el College and a research and development center employing 25 researchers.

U.S. Invitation To Attend Peace Talks Reported

JN1202202392 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] The U.S. State Department said today it had invited Arab countries and Israel to resume bilateral peace talks in Washington on February the 24th. But it said it had not yet received responses from all parties.

King Husayn Instructs Washington Delegates

JN1302130792 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] At noon today, His Majesty King Husayn visited the Prime Ministry, where his majesty met with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir. Afterward, his majesty chaired a meeting of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks. The prime minister and 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, attended the meeting, which comes prior to the delegation departure for Washington to resume the Middle East peace talks.

The meeting was also attended by the deputy prime minister and transport minister, the foreign minister, the minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs, the information minister, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the delegation.

His Majesty King Husayn was briefed on the progress of the multilateral talks in Moscow and the bilateral talks in Washington. Afterward, the delegation listened to His Majesty King Husayn's royal instructions, in which his majesty expressed satisfaction with the Jordanian performance in the peace process as a whole. His majesty also gave royal instructions regarding the next phases of the talks. He stressed that during these talks it is important to emphasize the core of the peace process through the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions concerning the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and respecting the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their land, given that these points constitute basic pillars in the Jordanian stance on the process to attain a just, comprehensive peace.

PLO Delegation Arrives in Amman for Talks

JN1402084192 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Feb 92 pp 1, 15

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Amman—A PLO delegation comprising PLO Executive Committee members Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Sulayman al-Najjab, as well as Akram Haniyah, adviser to the Palestinian president for occupied territory affairs, arrived in Amman from Cairo yesterday on a brief visit to Jordan, during which they will meet with a number of Jordanian officials.

Last night, Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir received PLO Executive Committee members Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Sulayman al-Najjab, and discussed with them efforts being made in the regional peace process.

The meeting was also attended by the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the delegation's visit is part of continuing efforts to secure constant coordination on the peace process. He affirmed the need to halt settlement activities in the occupied Arab territories to help make progress in the peace process. He indicated that his talks with Jordanian officials are meant to evaluate the results of the Moscow multilateral talks, as well as their impact on the peace process.

The same delegation met with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, political affairs adviser to Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. It will also visit Damascus following its visit to Jordan.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y upon his arrival in Amman yesterday, Sulayman al-Najjab, PLO Executive Committee member, said: "The U.S. Administration has informed us that the forthcoming round of talks will be the last round to be held in Washington."

Al-Najjab added: "We do not object to this. What is important, however, is that the new venue for the talks must have a position that is supportive of international legitimacy. Besides, this venue must be one that deals with the Palestinian people as a people whose sole and legitimate representative is the PLO. Likewise, the new venue for the peace talks must grant this representative all the facilities it needs to conduct its activities and coordinate its presence there during negotiations."

The PLO official termed Jordanian-Palestinian coordination as good. He pointed out that the Palestinian delegation's current visit to Jordan is meant to coordinate stands between Jordan and Palestine, exchange views, and review developments pertaining to the peace process. He added: "We are heading for a new round of talks, which requires joint preparation. Furthermore, consultations must be held with Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt."

Al-Najjab affirmed the importance of the next round of negotiations, saying: "It will be held on the heels of the multilateral talks in Moscow. It is well-known that the Arab parties attending these talks affirmed a jointly held concept that there can be no normalization of Arab-Israeli ties before Israeli settlement building is halted and before progress is made in the bilateral negotiations—progress that commits Israel to withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem."

The PLO Executive Committee member added: "Prior to the start of these talks, which are scheduled to begin toward the end of February, we seek to unify the Arab position vis-a-vis the U.S. loan guarantees requested by Israel." He went on to say: "We will not accept any

excuses the U.S. Administration could advance to justify its possible financing of the Shamir government's settlement projects, and its possible support for his election platform."

Al-Najjab affirmed that the talks with brothers in Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon will focus on two issues. Elaborating on this, he said: "The first issue is affirming the unity of the Arab position and obtaining an Arab commitment that there will be no agreements concluded with Israel, within the context of the multilateral talks committees, before Israel pledges to respect international legitimacy resolutions and expresses full readiness to implement them. The second issue concerns reinforcing the unity of the Arab position, with a view to making Israel commit itself to halting all settlement activities. This issue also pertains to the need to contact the U.S. Administration and inform it that it is necessary for it to support the Palestinian position that continued settlement activities will destroy both the bilateral and multilateral peace talks."

'Abd-Rabbuh Interviewed

JN1302194192 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1810 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] A PLO delegation arrived in Amman from Cairo this morning on a brief visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials. It is made up of PLO Executive Committee members Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Sulayman al-Najjab, and Akram Haniyah, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat's adviser for occupied territory affairs.

'Abd-Rabbuh spoke to our political affairs correspondent:

[Begin recording] ['Abd-Rabbuh] Our consulations are ongoing—especially with our brothers in Jordan—to prepare for the forthcoming round of the peace talks. The next round will take place against the background of increased Israeli repression, terror, and settlement activity in the occupied territories.

[Correspondent] Do you think that the approach of the Washington talks calls for a higher level of coordination among the Arab states concerned?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Absolutely. This is one of the points we are discussing with the Arab states concerned. We and Jordan recognize the need for an Arab meeting grouping the Arab states directly concerned in the peace process, or all the Arab countries, including those that were present at the multilateral Moscow conference. The need for Arab coordination is still there, and we are pursuing contacts in the interest of coordination. We do not see the peace process moving forward short of a united Arab posture. Arabs need to bring pressure to bear in the interest of a halt to settlement building and influencing the American position on the loan guarantees, which Israel is anxious to secure to promote the settlement drive in the occupied territories. [end recording]

Syrian Source on Coordination in Talks

JN1302112892 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 13 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] The Syrian Government has welcomed a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab countries concerned with the negotiations with Israel, in order to coordinate their political stands toward the Israeli maneuvers. A high-ranking Syrian diplomatic source in Amman told AKHBAR AL-USBU' that his country is confident that Jordan is committed to a collective Arab position and that it will not deviate from this position.

The source emphasized that there is ongoing and strong Jordanian-Syrian-Palestinian coordination on the peace negotiations. He reiterated Syria's position, which rejects the principle of normalization, and said that Syria will not participate in the multilateral peace conference unless progress is made in the bilateral negotiations and unless Israel abides by international legitimacy and implements the UN Security Council resolutions.

He stressed that Syria will not bargain over the Golan, and that it views the occupied Syrian territories the way it views any part of the Arab territories occupied in 1967, and demands the return of these territories before the Golan is liberated.

Senate Speaker, Libyans Discuss 'Threats'

JN1202162892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Senate Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi today received a delegation from the General People's Congress of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, currently visiting Jordan, at his office in the parliament.

During the meeting, a review was made of Jordan's pan-Arab position, which supports the joint Arab efforts of the Arab Parliamentary Union to defend Arab causes and legitimate rights.

Al-Lawzi stressed that Jordan is fully prepared to contribute toward any action that would help deter perils against the Arab nation, including joining the Arab parliamentary delegations which will visit the UN Security Council member states to explain the dimensions of the threats facing the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

He also stressed that Jordan believes the current dispute between Libya and the United States, Britain, and France over the crash of the French and U.S. planes should be resolved through peaceful means and within the framework of law, justice, and international legitimacy.

Cabinet Approves Compensation for Storm Victims

JN1202132292 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] Amman (Petra)—The council of ministers Tuesday passed three important decisions designed to

deal with the consequences of the snowstorms that hit Jordan in the past two months.

The cabinet requested the concerned ministers to speed up measures designed to repair damages affecting public utilities and the infrastructure. Questions related to funding the repair work should be coordinated with the minister of finance and the funds should be cut from allocations originally assigned to the concerned departments, a statement following the cabinet meeting said.

It said that steps are to be taken to ease the burdens on the people whose properties and agricultural crops were severely damaged or flooded by the water or affected by the frosty weather. In this connection small farmers will have access to long term interest-free loans from the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) and the Treasury—25 per cent and 75 per cent respectively. Farmers will be given sufficient grace periods before paying back their dues.

Other farmers, the statement said, will get help from the ACC and the Treasury under regular terms provided that the loans be used for the purchase of equipment and other input required to replace those damaged by the weather conditions.

The statement said that needy people who sustained property losses will also be compensated through the National Aid Fund.

The cabinet also decided to embark on measures designed to set up an agricultural insurance fund and to build more dams to collect water for the dry season.

The decisions were taken at a full cabinet session chaired by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir during which a report by the special ministerial committee on the consequences of the snowstorms was reviewed. The report covered damages to roads, bridges, culverts, electricity, telephone, water and irrigation networks and other facilities, and public installations in addition to damage to agricultural crops.

PLO's al-Hut on Bilaterals Talks, Lebanese Role

NC1302151592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has been informed by Shafiq al-Hut, the PLO representative in Beirut, of the PLO's stand regarding the U.S. call to resume the bilateral talks in Washington. On the Palestinian stand, al-Hut said:

[Begin recording] The PLO's stand regarding this call is linked to the general Arab stand; that is, to the Lebanese, Syrian, and Jordanian stand. The decision by the PLO Executive Committee was clear: We all go together, postpone together, or boycott together. [end recording]

On the Lebanese response to the U.S. invitation, al-Hut said:

[Begin recording] So far, it seems the Lebanese Government has not yet made a decision, while awaiting some answers from abroad on the required guarantees or indications that the coming round will be a serious and effective round. I believe that the four capitals, or rather parties, will hold continuous contacts to make the final decision in the next two days.

The Lebanese-Palestinian file has been opened. It is very large and deals with many problems. This might not be the appropriate opportunity to discuss it, but there is a ministerial committee entrusted with this file. I have contacted Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin. He told me that the ministerial committee has concluded studying this file and is about to draw up draft resolutions which it will present to the Lebanese cabinet. [end recording]

Al-Hut clarified that the question of opening a PLO office in Beirut still depends on some technical issues. Asked about the telephone conversation between PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Ibrahim al-Sus, the PLO representative in Paris, he said: First, I believe it was a montage of quotes. Second, this is a story which proves that democracy is sometimes mixed up with intelligence, which is a shame. Third, president 'Arafat has never said anything like what Menahem Begin once said, such as describing the Palestinian people as a group of two-legged cockroaches.

The PLO had asked al-Hut to probe Lebanon's stand on the talks as part of its coordination with Beirut, Amman, and Damascus.

Minister Views Ties With Syria, Peace Talks

NC1202200492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Reacting to recent criticism of the visits to Syria by government officials and the so-called Syrian interference in Lebanese administrative appointments, Minister of State 'Abdallah al-Amin said that the government's detractors are merely trying to undermine its reputation and cast doubts on Syria's role in Lebanon.

Speaking at an interview today, al-Amin said that Syria does not interfere in the formation of Lebanon's government or administrative appointments. He said that the meetings between Lebanese and Syrian officials are held to consolidate bilateral ties and coordinate policies on issues of common concern.

Concerning Lebanon's participation in the coming bilateral talks in Washington, al-Amin said: We, the Lebanese, have not yet sensed any U.S. pressure on Israel to change its position, despite the written and verbal agreements the United States and Russia gave to the Arabs and Lebanon that pressure will be put on Israel to make it accept the principle of land for peace.

Al-Amin added: We do not see the invitation to a new round of bilateral talks as being serious. If the United States does not offer assurances and guarantees that some progress will be achieved at the negotiations, we will have no reason to go to the talks.

Gates Mission Shows 'Disdain, Contempt' for Arabs

NC1302153092 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 12 Feb 92 p 1

[Editorial by editor in chief Talal Salman: "Your Majesty, Robert Gates the Great"]

[Excerpts] Like the announcement of the winner of the lotto, the United States announced the names of the Arab rulers it has decided to remove, warning those it has placed on probation and granting the "favorites" the gift of remaining where they are, at least until further notice.

The announcement of CIA Director Robert Gates' arrival in the region to consult with Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Israel on bringing down the Iraqi regime and imposing sanctions against Libya, is similar to that accompanying the launch of a manned spacecraft or the arrival of a handsome film star. It is like a Marlboro commercial.

This is not provocation, but absolute disdain and contempt for the "Arab man's rights" in his territories and for all his freedoms, the simplest of which is his right to voice his opinion of the ruling regime and to choose whether to bring it down or keep it, unaffected by emotion or his belief in a ruler's patriotism.

The CIA director is talking to Israel about Arab rulers. He is telling this or that Arab country its role and task in implementing his plan for this or that Arab country.

Even during the eras of mandates, direct occupation, and protection, when the colonial countries imposed their will on the Arab citizen, they were more restrained and showed more consideration for his feelings. Even Israel, the enemy, has followed a more "intelligent" policy based on inciting the people against a "dictatorial ruler."

By never boasting of using direct force to oust him, it covered itself with the cloak of popular will and even divine miracles.

Regrettably, not one Arab voice has been raised in protest.

All that happened was that the Egyptian regime rid itself of the burden of participating in the dirty mission while the Saudi papers defined his ambitions by saying that he wants only "to clip the wings of Saddam Husayn and not to oust him."

A dead body feels no pain. [passage omitted]

It is the U.S. age. This is understandable. There is no power and no strength except in God.

Who said the United States is "God" almighty, that what it wants is done, and that whatever regime it rejects falls and brings humiliation and curses on itself?

Robert Gates, who came as if he was God's ruler over the Arabs, is merely an employee who must account for his actions in his own country. He is limited. He cannot implement anything that harms the United States' reputation, burdens its budget, or damages its relations or interests anywhere.

It is shameful to see American papers criticize Gates and his new dirty mission and warn of the consequences which could endanger U.S. interests when the royal Arab palaces are open to him. He is treated as if he is "the destiny," dictating what is allowed and what is not, and as if he is the omnipotent, the giver, the almighty, the powerful, the one who orders and decides, and the one whose orders and permission get things done.

He who humiliates himself finds it easy to accept humiliation.

What could be the difference between the American Robert Gates and tomorrow's Robert Gates? He who waits for tomorrow does not have long to wait.

The Israeli Gates might even have started touring the same Arab royal palaces, "giving advice", "counseling", elevating or bringing down whoever he pleases, "out of concern for the safety of his majesty, his family, and his regime!"

Where to go from here? Why this collection of peerless kings, presidents, and leaders when an American employee with the rank of intelligence chief can decide, on behalf of (its people) and rulers, what is good for this region and what harm should befall it.

Your great majesties, pity friend Gates for be cannot bear this veneration and deference.

By God, how can he move when he is so laden with all your titles, from prince of believers, to inspired president, to the custodian of the two holy mosques?

What is left for you? What can you do between Mr. Robert Gates' two visits?

Agreement With WHO Signed on AIDS Prevention

NC1302172992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] The Lebanese Government and the World Health Organization have signed an agreement on a program for protection from AIDS. The agreement stresses working on preventing the spread of AIDS in Lebanon and developing methods of diagnosis and protection.

SLA Command Warns Villages To Expel Hizballah

TA1202072292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] command has warned two Shiite villages north of the security zone to expel eight Hizballah activists or face the consequences. The warnings are being broadcast on the SLA's Voice of the South radio station. The villages in question are al-Sultaniyah and Qallawiyah. This is the first time the SLA has broadcast the names of wanted terrorists. In the broadcast, the eight are described as experts in explosives who use a local infirmary as a base and employ the ambulances for transferring weapons to the security zone.

U.S. Urged To 'Salvage' Talks, Pressure Israel

JN1402095992 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Damascus, 14 Feb (SANA)—In an editorial today entitled "To Salvage the Peace Process," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that Israel is meeting peace efforts with a creeping settlement drive meant to obliterate the Arab features of the occupied territories, and address a clear Zionist message that the peace acceptable to Israel is the one that drops or forgets about the issues of complete withdrawal and recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights. Such a peace, the paper notes, is hollow and can mean only one thing; namely, capitulation and the imposition of a fait accompli.

The paper adds: Israel is not content with obstructing the peace process. It also seeks to build the settlements by putting pressure on the U.S. Administration for an unconditional endorsement granting $10 billion in loan guarantees.

The paper goes on to say: Spreading the settlement epidemic in the occupied territories is a danger to the peace process as well as the future of the occupied territories and the Palestinian people. The Arabs endorsed the peace process, attended the international conference, and agreed to take part in peace talks with the understanding that the peace process, the peace conference, and peace talks would, foremost, be based on the principle of trading land for peace.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: The U.S. Administration must take the initiative this time by working to salvage the peace process and moving it in the direction of its real objective, and also by playing an effective and positive role by placing the harshest forms of pressure on Israel; including halting aid, canceling any discussion of the loan guarantees, and asking the UN Security Council to enforce the role of international legitimacy with regard to imposing a just and comprehensive peace on Israel.

French Foreign Minister Dumas Arrives for Talks

JN1202214092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador to Paris, the French ambassador in Damascus, and the French Embassy staff.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Mr. Dumas said: My visit to Syria will last for three days. I hope to start meetings tomorrow with Syrian officials, particularly President Hafiz al-Asad. We will discuss a number of issues of concern to the region and the world. We will also discuss bilateral ties.

Dumas added: As you know, our relations are good and we will try to bolster these relations.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' responded to questions posed by journalists accompanying Mr. Dumas. He said: We hope the talks which Mr. Dumas is due to hold tomorrow with President Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian officials will be fruitful and constructive and will help strengthen bilateral ties. On our part, we believe that France has a role to play in the peace process and in strengthening peace and security in the region.

Discusses Ties With al-Shar'

JN1302124092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] A session of talks was held at the Foreign Ministry this morning between a Syrian delegation headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the French delegation headed by Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

During the meeting, the peace process and its developments, and the importance of European contributions to the peace process were discussed. Views were also exchanged on international developments, especially the situation in the region.

Discussion during the meeting focused on means to reinforce and expand bilateral ties of cooperation and friendship in all areas.

Meets al-Asad

JN1302171492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Hunayn Hatim, Syrian ambassador to France; and Daniel Contenay, French ambassador in Damascus.

Mr. Dumas conveyed the greetings of French President Francois Mitterrand to the president. The president asked him to convey his greetings and wishes to President Mitterrand.

Discussions dealt with the international situation and developments; the situation in the Middle East; and the current peace process that began in Madrid, and the obstacles posed by the Israeli position.

Minister Dumas referred to France's interest in the peace process in the Middle East and its appreciation for Syria's central role in this process.

The president emphasized Syria's eagerness to render the peace process a success and to reach a just and comprehensive peace that is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. He referred to the role that France and the EC states can play in order to lead the peace process along the right path. He said that, from

the beginning, Syria has been calling for an active role in the peace process for the EC states and the United Nations.

The positive developments that took place in Lebanon were reviewed as well as the steps taken to activate Lebanese legitimacy and safeguard Lebanon's unity of land and people.

Talks also dealt with bilateral relations, and emphasis was placed on the bilateral desire to develop ties in various fields.

Received by Khaddam

JN1302191592 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] At 1600 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Mr. Roland Dumas and his delegation. Also present were the French ambassador to Damascus and the Syrian ambassador to Paris.

Discussions dealt with the international situation and possible developments, and the impact of current developments on people in the world.

Talks also dealt with developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the prospects for the peace process, and various regional issues.

Social Affairs Minister Meets ILO Team

JN1202172392 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1537 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Damascus, 12 Feb (SANA)—Haydar Buzu, minister of social affairs and labor, this morning received a fact-finding mission from the International Labor Office [ILO].

The minister explained a report prepared by the ministry regarding human rights violations that were committed and continue to be committed by Israeli authorities in the occupied Arab territories, in contravention of UN and ILO resolutions. The report also deals with the Israeli authorities' ongoing expansionist policy, represented by building settlements, bringing in more settlers, and placing obstacles before the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, in accordance with UN resolutions and international legitimacy.

The minister stressed the need for the ILO to work in cooperation with other international organizations for the sake of implementing their resolutions pertaining to forcing Israel to halt settlements, the advent of new settlers, and inhumane practices against the citizens of occupied Arab territories, represented by demolishing homes, confiscating land and property, and other repressive actions.

The minister hoped that the mission, looking into in the occupied Arab territories, would obtain the required information, and would closely examine everything related to the great task they shoulder, in terms of seeking out facts about the occupation authorities' inhumane and repressive practices in the occupied Arab territories in contravention of international law.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Accuses CIS of Not Honoring Pact

BK1402010292 Lahore THE NATION in English 13 Feb 92 pp 1, 12

[Excerpt] Islamabad (PPI) [PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL]—Chief of Jami'at-e Eslami Afghanistan Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani, on Wednesday criticised the present leadership of Russia and other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) for not honouring their commitments made with the mojahedin delegation that visited Moscow in November 1991.

He was addressing a news conference at the Foreign Office on the occasion of handing over three prisoners of war (POW's) to a Uzbek-Russian delegation including POW parents.

Mr Rabbani said it is highly regrettable that the Afghan mojahedin are fulfilling their commitments made with Moscow during their visit but the other side is not fulfilling these commitments and is still providing aid to the puppet Kabul regime.

He informed that during the visit of the Afghan mojahedin it had decided that both the sides will release POW's and keeping in view this three POW's were freed in December last and three are being released on Wednesday but the response from other side is not satisfactory.

Mr Rabbani said: "In spite of announcing joint declaration in Moscow a good number of Russian Advisors are performing important duties in Kabul", adding that we have proofs.

He was of the view that continuation of aid to present Najib regime and presence of Russian Advisors are tantamount to mockery with the commitment made at talks between the Mojahedin and Russian leadership.

The leader of the delegation, Lona Andronov, who is Advisor to the Russian Vice-President, Aleksandr Rutskoi and a Member of the Parliament, thanked Professor Rabani on behalf of Mr. Rutskoi and Russian Federation for this gesture.

He said the Russian Vice-President has hoped that their cooperation would continue in the interest of Afghan Mojahedin and Afghan people and that there would be further release of former Soviet POWs which are with the Mojahedin.

Mr Andronov said the obligations undertaken by Russia have been fulfilled and they have stopped supply of arms and ammunitions and fuel for the armed forces of Kabul regime. He said out of 60, 50 Soviet Advisors have been withdrawn from Kabul and the remaining would be back soon.

He assured that they would recognise the future Islamic government of Afghanistan which would be elected by Afghans themselves. He said the Russian Vice-President had underlined that they would never in future interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

The leader of the Uzbekistan delegation, Mr Amanullah Ibn-e-Rehmatullah, while thanking the Pakistan Government and Prof. Rabbani hoped that the remaining POWs would be released soon.

He hoped for better and close relationship between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. He said Uzbekistan believes in close friendship with Pakistan. The three POWs handed over to their parents were Mohammad Nasir, Mr Qasim and Mr Rustam.

Bangladesh

Burmese Muslim Refugees Report Massacres

BK1402082092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0735 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Feb 14 (AFP)—Some 250 Rohingya Moslems in Burma's Arakan Province were gunned down by Burmese troops in the past week, according to a newly set up rebel news agency here Friday. The ARAKAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) based in Cox's Bazaar, a Bangladesh district bordering on Burma, quoted fleeing Moslem refugees as describing two massacres in the past week.

No independent confirmation of the reports was available, but the Burmese Embassy in Dhaka has repeatedly dismissed such reports in Bangladesh as "fabricated lies."

The latest massacre took place Tuesday when Burmese troops raided Laudong village near the frontier district of Buthidong, the ANA said. The soldiers picked up 50 Rohingya Moslem youths and herded them to a firing squad before dumping their bodies in mass graves, it said.

In another incident a week ago, the troops carrying out anti-insurgency operations in the area fired indiscriminately on a group of 500 Rohingyas at Apuakwa mountain pass near Kyauktaw town in Buthidong, killing 200 people, the ANA said in its first news bulletin made available to local reporters here.

The group was heading for the Bangladesh border after fleeing their homes when the attack came at the pass, some 112 kilometres (70 miles) east of the Bangladesh frontier town of Teknaf, the ANA claimed.

The ANA was launched as a publicity organ of the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO), which seeks to expose alleged Burmese atrocities against the minority Rohingya Moslems in Arakan Province. The Arakan-based RSO, which have a liaison office in this Bangladesh port city, gave no other details on ANA.

Press reports here said the agency had opened a temporary office in Cox's Bazaar district where tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees fleeing alleged Burmese atrocities in the past year have taken shelter.

Official sources had put the number of arriving refugees in bordering Bangladesh villages at more than 45,000 but newspapers quoting unofficial sources said their number had crossed the 100,000 mark with hundreds more arriving every day.

Dhaka-Rangoon relations have been strained since the December 21 raid on a Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) border guard post by Burmese troops that left four people including a soldier dead. The Burmese troops seized arms and ammunition in the raid.

Burma, which officially denied its involvement in the raid, later reportedly admitted that the incident was one of mistaken identity by their troops in hot pursuit of separatist Moslem rebels. Most of the seized weapons were returned to BDR during a meeting Monday between local border commanders from both sides at the Burmese town of Mongdu, official sources confirmed.

Despite persistent allegations by RSO and other organisations of human rights violations, Rangoon, which treats Rohingya Moslems as aliens and refuses to accept them as Burmese, has denied allegations of atrocities against fleeing refugees and said its troops were carrying out an "anti-insurgency drive."

Rangoon says its actions were not directed against any particular community within Burma. Dhaka has denied Rangoon's allegations that a section of rebel Rohingya Moslems use the hills in southeastern Bangladesh as a base for their bush fight against Burmese troops.

Thousands 'Severely' Malnourished

BK1302132292 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] A Paris-based international relief agency says tens of thousands of Burmese Muslim refugees who fled across the border to Bangladesh are severely undernourished. The organization's medical teams working with the refugees estimate that almost 30 percent of children are suffering from malnutrition. The refugees are mostly women and children.

A Bangladesh Government official says it is now estimated that there are more than 50,000 refugees in the area. Bangladesh has already called for international help to cope with the influx of Rohingya Muslims of Burma. Meanwhile, a number of camps are being set up in Cox's Bazaar District to shelter the refugees.

Rahman Leaves for Europe, Middle East Visit

BK1402111092 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman left Dhaka last night for London to begin a fortnight-long eight-nation tour of Europe and the Middle East. The foreign minister will travel to the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, and Belgium. From Europe, he will fly on a four-day journey that will take him to United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Bahrain.

He is carrying messages from Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for the heads of state and government of the countries he will undertake tour. The foreign minister will discuss with his counterparts and other leaders of the friendly countries political and economic cooperation as well as regional and international issues. He will particularly brief them about Bangladesh's sincere efforts for a peaceful solution of the country's problem with neighboring Myanmar [Burma], including the influx of Rohingya Muslims.

India

Solanki Reiterates Stand on Nuclear 'Option'

BK1302130792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, has reiterated India's stand on the question of signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. Addressing the consultative committee of members of parliament of his ministry, he said New Delhi cannot accept an unnatural and perpetual division of the world between nuclear haves and have-nots. In this regard, he referred to the prime minister's appeal to recognize Rajiv Gandhi's plan for a time-bound program of eliminating all nuclear weapons as the only logical framework for tackling the question of horizontal proliferation.

According to official sources, while other issues like the situation in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir were discussed, the major thrust of the meeting was on NPT and related issues. There was a consensus at the meeting on government's stand on the NPT. Members urged the government to safeguard the country's status as a nuclear-weapon-technology state where India has an option to build nuclear weapons as long as other countries continue to possess them. There was a brief discussion on the proposed five-power conference to discuss the question of a nuclear-weapon-free South Asia. It was explained that New Delhi had already conveyed to the promoters of this idea its inability to accept the proposal.

Notes Pakistan's Kashmir Stance

BK1302161292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Referring to Pakistan's attempts to internationalize the situation in Kashmir,

Mr. Solanki said India is fully alive to the geopolitical implications of Pakistan's activities in Central Asia and its announcement that it has the capacity to manufacture a nuclear device. He said this has to be seen as part of an effort to build Pakistan's image in certain quarters. The minister said New Delhi had not sought UN intervention. The ambassadors of permanent members of the Security Council had been called in their individual capacity to convey New Delhi's concern over Pakistan's activities.

Iraq Said Willing To Barter Oil To Pay Debt

BK1302163892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1339 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 13 (AFP)—Iraq is willing to pay off some 1.2 billion dollars it owes to Indian construction companies by bartering oil, a newspaper reported Thursday.

But India would require a green signal from the United Nations Security Council before accepting the proposal because of the sanctions against Baghdad, THE ECONOMIC TIMES said.

Government officials could not be reached to comment on the report, which said Baghdad owed the debt to 23 construction companies that had worked for the Iraqi Government until the Gulf war.

Iraq has in the past used oil to clear its debts, and an agreement for a similar barter was signed in 1990. Baghdad had then agreed to wipe out debts by 1996, but the accord could not be implemented because of the Gulf conflict.

India and Iraq have enjoyed close ties, and New Delhi initially took a pro-Baghdad stand during the Gulf war before according refuelling facilities to U.S. warplanes.

Curfew Imposed in Uttar Pradesh After Violence

BK1302161692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the situation in the curfew-bound areas of Hapur city is reported to be tense but under control. An indefinite curfew was clamped in the city yesterday evening after violent incidents. According to an official spokesman, the death toll in the police firing and stabbing incidents yesterday has risen to seven with one person succumbing to injuries in the hospital today. Thirty persons have been taken into custody in connection with the incident.

The state assembly today had to be adjourned for one hour following unruly scenes over the growing incidents of communal violence in the state. The trouble started on the admission of the motion seeking suspension of the rules of the house to take up immediate discussion on the recent communal riots in different areas. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has urged the Uttar Pradesh Government to take effective steps to curb group clashes in the state and pay adequate compensation to those affected. The party Politburo in a statement in New Delhi today expressed concern over the incidents in Hapur, Jalalpur, and Meerut and demanded proper protection to the minorities.

Iran

Yazdi Warns Against U.S. Influence in Eurasia, UN

LD1402113892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] In the Tehran Friday prayers sermon today, Ayatollah Yazdi praised the courageous ummah of Islamic Iran for their massive presence at the 11 February rally. He said: The people's massive presence foiled all conspiracies. The acting Friday imam of Tehran stated: With their large-scale participation the people showed their support for the rule of the Koran and the establishment of Islamic principles in their country.

Continuing the sermons, Ayatollah Yazdi pointed to the recent remarks of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, in which he said that Islamic Iran will not allow any country, particularly the United States, to consider itself the gendarme of the region. Ayatollah Yazdi said: In accordance with its basic tenets, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not accept hegemony by any power over the region. It would be an illusion for the United States to imagine that it can designate the destiny of nations through its presence in the region. He stressed: This is the day of the people and liberation of nations. The people of the region will maintain their own security. Not only will the U.S. presence be of no help to the people, but it will serve to increase tension.

Ayatollah Yazdi also remarked on the U.S. efforts to gain influence over the Muslim-inhabited republics of Central Asia. Pointing out that the U.S. Government has set aside a special budget for this area, he said: Just as 70 years of force and hegemony failed to detach the Muslim people of that region from Islam and the Muslims of other regions, the U.S. plots aimed at confronting the Islamic wishes of the people of that region also are doomed to failure. Tehran's acting Friday imam described relations between Iran and these republics as long-standing. He stated: It is natural for these relations to grow.

Referring to the situation in Algeria, Ayatollah Yazdi said: History will judge the Islamic uprising of the Algerian people. Our advice to the current rulers of that country is to refrain from moving in a direction contrary to the people's wishes.

Concluding his sermons, Ayatollah Yazdi cautioned the United Nations not to be dominated by the United States. He declared: People will lose their confidence in that organization if they sense it has come under U.S. authority.

Kuwaiti Assembly Speaker Meets Majles Counterpart

LD1302124292 Tehran Voice of The Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd Masa'id, who is in our country at the head of a delegation, met Majles Speaker Karrubi shortly before noon today.

In the meeting, the Kuwaiti National Assembly speaker said: We have come to Iran so that we may right previous wrongs. Declaring that his country is ready to expand bilateral relations in all fields, he said: The establishment of parliamentary friendship groups between the two assemblies would seem a very effective way of deepening and strengthening ties. To that end we are ready for such groups to be set up at the first opportunity.

Karrubi then stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to expand relations with the countries of the Third World, especially Muslim and neighboring countries. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran has been ready to participate actively in the reconstruction of Kuwait. The capping of the burning oil wells was an indication of this.

The Majles speaker went on to say that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to set up parliamentary friendship groups with Kuwait. On the security of the Persian Gulf region, he said: The Persian Gulf is a very sensitive region; its security can only be guaranteed through cooperation among the region's countries.

At the end of the meeting, at which a number of Majles deputies from the two countries were present, the Kuwaiti National Assembly speaker invited Karrubi to visit his country. Karrubi said he hopes to be able to make the trip in the near future.

Meets President, Discusses Gulf Security

LD1302180192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Mr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id, speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, met with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this afternoon. He praised the Islamic Republic of Iran for its principled stance toward the strengthening of peace and security in the Persian Gulf region. He briefed the president on the internal situation of his country since the end of the [Iraqi] occupation. He said: We believe that the Islamic Republic of Iran plays a pivotal role in the security of the Persian Gulf region and we expect it to maintain extensive cooperation with Kuwait.

Then Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the willingness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand its relations with all the Persian Gulf southern states and particularly with Kuwait. He expressed the hope that cooperation would further expand.

Joint Statement Issued

LD1402122792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id, who led a parliamentary delegation to Iran, was seen off officially by Majles Speaker Karrubi on his departure from Tehran this morning. The parliamentary speakers of the two countries issued a press statement at the end of the Kuwaiti National Assembly speaker's visit to Iran in which they attributed the safeguarding of security and stability of the region to the countries of the region. Another part of that statement stresses good-neighborliness, the strengthening of the grounds for fraternity and friendship, and respect for the two countries' leaderships.

The parliamentary speakers of the two countries condemned the invasions of Iran and Kuwait by the Iraqi regime. They considered those acts to be contrary to international norms and regulations and to Islamic objectives and values, and as the cause of tension in the regional situation. The statement continues: Friendship groups of the two parliaments will be formed as soon as possible.

Before leaving Tehran, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id expressed hope concerning future relations between the two countries, saying: If Iran forgets Kuwait's past behavior, future cooperation between the two countries will be very good and desirable.

The Kuwaiti National Assembly speaker spoke of Iran's very important role in the Persian Gulf region, saying: Kuwait will support any proposal that includes Iran's participation in the security arrangements of the Persian Gulf.

President Receives Libyan Parliamentary Speaker

LD1302135692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mr. 'Abd-al-Raziq Sawsa', speaker of the Libyan parliament.

At the meeting, in a speech referring to the propaganda hue and cry raised against Libya, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need for unity and coordination among the Muslims.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Libyan parliamentary speaker conveyed the greetings of Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and his congratulations on the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution. He said: We are glad to be in the Islamic Republic and to have taken part in the revolution victory celebrations alongside our Muslim brothers.

Referring to the speech by our president at the 11 February ceremony and the extensive presence of the

people at the celebrations, Mr. Sawsa' said: As you mentioned, we have a grave duty to the world Muslims. Finally, he called for the expansion of ties in all fields of interest to the two countries.

Appreciates Support Against U.S.

LD1302142192 Tehran IRNA in English 1211 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—Secretary General of Libya's General People's Congress 'Abd-al-Raziq Sawsa' Thursday said that the Libyan people in confronting their enemies were constantly feeling the presence of the Iranian nation beside them.

The Libyan official made the remark in a brief talk to reporters prior to his departure at Mehrabad Airport at the end of his four- day official visit.

He stressed that the Libyan and Iranian leaders were undertaking the responsibility of mobilizing Muslims against their enemies.

He pointed to the coordination made with Iranian officials over the U.S. threats against Libya and appreciated the stand Iran has adopted in this connection.

He referred to his talks with Iranian officials as an opportunity to further strengthen and consolidate bilateral Tehran-Tripoli cooperation.

Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, who was at the airport to see off the Libyan guest, stressed that Iranian people were beside the Libyans in their anti-imperialist campaigns.

He described Tehran-Tripoli cooperation and similar views jointly held by the two countries as "strategic".

He said that imminent formation of friendship groups between parliaments of the two countries would serve as an "effective element for consolidation of bilateral ties."

Karrubi also termed Sawsa's talks with Iranian officials as "positive" and noted that close stands of the two countries in various international affairs could pave the way for further expansion of such ties.

Earlier today, Sawsa' conferred with President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani who called for unity and coordination among Muslim states with regard to the recent U.S. propaganda campaign against Libya.

Sawsa', conveying warm greetings of Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Rafsanjani, called for further expansion of bilateral relations in all fields.

Lebanon's Fadlallah Urges Washington Talks Boycott

NC1302135692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] His Eminence 'Allamah Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah is continuing his visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, where he saw Majles Speaker Mehdi Karrubi, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and Islamic Guidance Minister 'Ali Mohammad Khatami, reviewing with them regional political developments and Islamic issues.

His Eminence Shaykh Fadlallah also received the Palestinian ambassador to Iran and emphasized the need for the Palestinian delegation to boycott the bilateral negotiations scheduled for 24 February in Washington.

Speaks at Friday Prayers

LD1402115692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, the combatant Lebanese cleric, addressed the Friday prayer congregation of Tehran today. Expressing congratulations on the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, he described the heroic people of Iran as the defenders of Islam and Islamic values in the world. He stated: The extensive presence of the people at the 11 February marches showed that these people continue to be steadfast in support of the revolution and their leaders.

He reiterated that world arrogance, especially America, continues to confront the Islamic revolution and pan-Islamism [Eslam khahi] in the world, because it considers this movement to be against its interests.

The eminent Lebanese cleric stressed: America wants to bring about the attainment of the Zionists' objectives through the so-called Middle East peace talks. It is therefore a religious duty [wajib] for the Muslims to support the uprising of the Palestinian people and the Islamic resistance in South Lebanon.

In conclusion, 'Allamah Fadlallah called on the Islamic world to pay attention to the newly independent Muslim-inhabited republics in Central Asia. He stated: America is trying hard to influence this Islamic region. This issue requires the awareness of Muslims.

Hails Lebanese Resistance

LD1402092892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Excerpt] The latest developments in Lebanon were discussed at a Majles meeting today between 'Allamah Sayyid Husayn Fadlallah, the prominent Lebanese clergyman, and Majlis Speaker Karrubi. Praising the Islamic Resistance of Lebanon for its fight against the Zionist regime, Karrubi stressed that the fight should continue.

At the request of 'Allamah Sayyid Husayn Fadlallah and the Lebanese Government, three Lebanese prisoners of war captured by the Islamic Republic of Iran's forces in the imposed war were handed over to the Lebanese charge d'affaires this morning. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister Previews Geneva OPEC Session

LD1302185892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Statement by Minister of Petroleum Golam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i in Geneva; date not specified]

[Text] [Announcer] Our country's oil minister, who is in Geneva to take part in the OPEC meeting, has expressed his views on the meeting:

[Unidentified correspondent] With regard to the drop in demand on the world oil market, and in order to stop a reduction in prices, OPEC should lower its production ceiling, which currently stands at around 24.5 million barrels a day, by around two million barrels a day.

Our country's oil minister said: With due regard to the fact that the reduction in production is the center of the talks, the current OPEC session is a significant meeting, and also is being held under adverse conditions. But because of market conditions, almost all the OPEC ministers attending the session are here with a greater degree of flexibility. And despite the existing differences of opinion, they will try as much as possible to further reduce the volume of oil production.

He added: If we succeed in reducing production by a suitable amount, it would help prices to gain some stability in the spring. The oil minister said: The minimum price ceiling acceptable to OPEC is $21 a barrel. He expressed hope that this price will be achieved as soon as possible.

On suggestions that the quota system should be made binding on member states, and also on the return of Iraq to the fold of oil-producing OPEC countries, Mr. Aqazadeh said:

[Begin Aqazadeh-Kho'i recording] We also have other proposals for that session. First of all, any ceiling decided by OPEC should fully clarify the individual quota of all the members states. Also, strict controls should apply to production. On the basis of the suggestion offered to the session, OPEC will be divided into two regions: one for the Persian Gulf region, and also including Indonesia; and the other Africa, and also including Ecuador and Venezuela. There would be production controls in both groups at ministerial level each month and that would help the members to further abide by the quota system which they are given for the next three months.

Also, with regard to the point that Iraq is still not able to bring its production to the assigned quota, and it is not likely that they can reach agreement with the United Nations during the second quarter of the year in any case, the session will stress that any time Iraq is able to resume production, the issue will then be discussed during an extraordinary session. [end recording]

Radio Criticizes Western 'Double Standards'

LD1302132192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1101 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Station Commentary]

[Text] The deputy secretary general of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency], accompanied by a delegation of IAEA experts, has inspected the peaceful nuclear activities of Iran. During its one week visit to Iran at the invitation of the head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization [AEO], the delegation inspected six nuclear centers in the country, and the installations under their umbrella, and were of the view that Iran's nuclear activities are for peaceful purposes. Iran has repeatedly declared at meetings of the IAEA not only that it has no intention of having any nuclear weapons but that it supports a policy aimed at the destruction of all nuclear weapons throughout the region. It believes that the peaceful use of nuclear power is the legitimate right of all countries, and no country can be deprived of this right in any way.

The deployment of nuclear technology by some regimes for military objectives has become a pretext for big industrial countries to prevent the development of this technology even in peaceful scientific and research fields.

Ninety-six percent of nuclear technology resources are at the disposal of the big industrial countries, the dangers of which are continuously being noted by all the world's countries. And it is quite clear that arrogant governments intend to prevent Islamic countries, including Iran, from having access to nuclear technology. Our country is carrying out its research programs within the framework of the regulations and norms of the IAEA and the remarks made by the UN secretary general's deputy in charge of atomic energy about Iran's atomic energy installations confirms the validity of this claim. But a regime such as Israel which possesses nuclear weapons has been, and continues to be free from these kinds of criticisms despite the fact that it has not signed the nonproliferation agreement.

This demonstrates that big powers use double standards in their dealings with different countries and their nuclear capacities.

Iran is facing shortages of electrical power and has invested heavily in the semicomplete Bushehr power plant and in training a specialized labor force. It has declared that it wants to make peaceful use of nuclear energy in all fields—including power production, water purification, pest control, wheat production, medical activities—and that this is among its inalienable rights.

Now that the IAEA delegation has confirmed that Iran is using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, it is befitting if the firms that are party to contracts with Iran act in accordance with their legal duties [reference to German

firms not completing the contract to finish the Bushehr nuclear plant]. Meanwhile, it is necessary that Israel's nuclear power stations also be subjected to such inspections.

UN Being 'Used' To Back West's 'Intervention'

NC1402111592 Tehran SALAM in Persian 3 Feb 92 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "Democracy for the Favored Minority!"]

[Text] The United Nations was the venue of the UN Security Council summit session, a novelty in and of itself. When the true directors of the show opened their mouths and began talking, however, one saw that there was nothing new. Now that the Eastern bloc no longer acts as a moderating force in the UN structure, the organization is being used to back the West's illicit intervention.

All the resolutions presented and adopted in the UN General Assembly and the Security Council in the past few months have been examples of the overt U.S. use of this unique organization.

One of the highlights of the final session in New York was the human rights issue. Even though the human rights issue has been stressed in the post-cold war period as an integral principle, the unsuccessful attempts by the international community to justify the Algerian crisis has intensified the need to redefine democracy in a manner which favors the United States and the West. This new definition was propounded at this session.

U.S. President Bush said in his speech: "The majority should not be allowed to play the role of a dictator. The United Nations should be on the side of those people who desire freedom and democracy."

British Prime Minister John Major said: "Today human rights, research on freedom, and supervision over just elections is part of the duties of the UN peacekeeping force. The world today is a world of cooperation in which there is no confrontation or ideological conflict."

Thus the ploy of human rights seems to have reached the end of the road. Now, in addition to the unpleasant dictators and the remaining dregs of the great powers on the international scene—such as PRC with its slogan of "democracy for the minority"—the opponents of the West who uphold their ideology or are in the majority are also susceptible to attack.

The Americans wish to enter the foray in the elections of various countries by ostensibly raising slogans of protection of human rights. The issue does not end here. According to its new definition, democracy now means that a favored few have a greater right to attain power than the majority. An example of this is the situation in Algeria.

We in the Third World should form an extensive network to combat this ploy. This will not be easy. We should strengthen our internal political structure and immunize it against the various diseases which should not only protect us but many other free peoples.

ECO Secretary General Previews Tehran Summit

LD1302192192 Tehran IRNA in English 1419 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—The first summit meet of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) will be held in Tehran on Sunday [16 February], according to the ECO Secretary General Alireza Salari.

In addition to Iran, Turkey and Pakistan, the current members of the ECO, the heads of the four newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union, that is Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan will also attend the assembly, Salari told IRNA in an interview today. He added that two more republics from the Middle Asia are also likely to attend.

Turkey will be represented by President Turgut Ozal, Iran by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Pakistan by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at the two day summit.

ECO was formerly known as RCD (Regional Cooperation for Development) founded 27 years ago by Iran, Turkey and Pakistan. The organization's activities almost came to a standstill after the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979. But in view of its significance as a regional alliance, the neighboring member states decided to revive the organization and for this reason renamed it ECO in 1985.

Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have formally applied for membership in ECO and according to Salari their requests will be approved at the Tehran conference. Tajikistan too has applied orally and will attend the summit as an observer.

Salari described the summit as "unprecedented" historically and expressed hope that it will take important and fateful decisions regarding the region in view of the drastic changes happening in the world.

He said the admission of the independent republics to the ECO will leave great political and economic impacts on the participating countries.

The ECO secretary said the initial members of the organization have announced readiness to help the newly independent republics and this at the same time will provide them with an opportunity to expand the regional market and transform their own economies. Politically too, he said, this will bring further unity among the ECO members.

On the issues to be raised at the Tehran summit, Salari said the results of the Ankara conference of the ECO

foreign ministers held last week would be surveyed and some views presented on the future activities of the organization.

Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Maleki said today that expansion of economic cooperation among the ECO members will cause that "positive steps" be taken towards the formation of an Islamic common market among Muslim states.

Speaking in an interview with the afternoon Persian daily ETTELA'AT, Maleki added that without regional economic cooperation, "we will not be able to create an Islamic common market."

He said many countries had started a competition for immediate establishment of relations with the Commonwealth of the Independent States (CIS) to serve their own interests. He cited the trip to the central Asia of the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker aimed at establishing closer relations with the newly independent republics.

Following the collapse of communism and the break-up of the Soviet Union, and before the Islamic Republic of Iran take any measure, the new republics and their people themselves were demanding closer and friendly ties with Iran, Maleki stressed.

"We don't find ourselves to be a rival or alternative to any other state in this respect. We also do not intend to block the activities of other countries in these regions. It is the people of these republics who should ultimately decide with whom and at what level they want to have relations," concluded Maleki.

Editorial Sees 'Unprecedented Opportunities'

NC1302203292 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9 Feb 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Tehran Meeting a Significant Test"]

[Text] The meeting of ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] heads of state will open in Tehran next week. Parallel with the ECO sessions, final decision will be taken regarding the membership of the three newly-founded republics of Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

According to the "Izmir treaty", which has been approved by the parliaments in Iran, Turkey and Pakistan, a ministerial meeting of the three countries is responsible for a range of topics including the acceptance of new members.

It might be mentioned here that the republic of Tajikistan had also expressed interest in joining ECO, and any of the above republics can submit application for membership to the secretariat of ECO before the opening date of the meeting of ECO heads of state, and attend the current sessions as observers.

Following the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, the new Muslim republics, which felt themselves to be more or less in political isolation, and have so far received no technical or economic assistance in spite of great promises made by the Western countries, regard ECO as a regional economic alliance on which they can depend.

The ECO countries now have unprecedented opportunities for development opened up before them. But the circumstances for the strengthening and growth of the Organization will come about only when exceptionally good relations prevail among Tehran, Ankara and Islamabad. And even if the three new republics are officially accepted into the Organization, still the topmost decisions will continue to be taken in one of above three capitals. Populations in all three new republics are not large enough to constitute economically optimum marketing conditions, and as a result they are not in a position to undertake key roles in the Organization.

In the opinion of informed political observers, the Tehran meeting is starting its work under circumstances that are clouded over by the detainment of a ship carrying Iranian merchandise at a port in Turkey, and this is bound to affect the atmosphere in the session. Political observers also believe that the Economic Cooperation Organization will be losing a historic opportunity, which will be hard to re-create, if it fails to reach during the present meeting strong resolutions concerning the future of ECO. Conversely, the leaders in Tehran, Ankara and Islamabad can exhibit uncommon political acumen by taking advantage of this unique opportunity to lay down the foundations of a large Islamic common market.

Let us hope they will do so!

Telephone Links With Azerbaijan To Be Set Up

LD1202210792 Tehran IRNA in English 1348 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Tabriz, E. Azerbaijan Prov., Feb. 11, IRNA—Ways of upgrading telecommunications cooperation between the newly-independent Azerbaijan Republic and Iran were explored at a meeting between Minister of Post, Telegraph and Telephone (PTT) Mohammad Gharazi and his Azerbaijani counterpart Shamel Musaov here Tuesday.

300 telephone channels are to be set up shortly to establish telephone links between the two countries, it was announced during the meeting also attended by the provincial governor general and several Azerbaijani officials. Once the project becomes operational, telephone links will be established between Baku, Gandha, Lenkoran in Azerbaijan Republic and Tehran and Tabriz. The two sides also agreed to set up joint post offices in Astara, Julfa and other border points.

UN Envoy, Mojahedin Leader Discuss Afghan Issue

NC1402084492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Special UN Emissary Benon Sevan discussed the Afghanistan issue when he met the leader and officials of

the Representative Council of the Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami Party of Afghanistan in Tehran.

He reported UN movement toward a political solution of the Afghanistan issue, saying: The United Nations is preparing to convene a session involving all sections and groups of the Afghan people to attain a principled consensus for a political solution.

Representative Council head Fayyaz appreciated the UN secretary general's recent efforts and said: Every solution for peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan should be based on the values of the Islamic jihad of the Afghanistan people.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepali Congress Names Ex-Prime Minister President

BK1302144692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1346 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 13 (AFP)—The ruling Nepali Congress (NC) began its first national convention since 1960 on Thursday before more than 20,000 spectators, including 8,000 party delegates and observers, a party official said.

The convention opened with outgoing General Secretary Mahendra Narayan Nidhi announcing the unanimous election of former prime minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai as the party's new president, the official said.

The main task of the three-day convention, being held at Kalabalgudi Stadium in Chandragadhi, 300 kilometers (190 miles) southeast of Kathmandu, will be to adopt a series of amendments of the NC's 1949 constitution aimed at passing the party's leadership to a younger generation, political observers said.

Present at the opening were U.S. Senator Charles Percy, senior leaders from India's main parties and ambassadors from the United States, Europe, Japan, India, Pakistan and Australia, a party source said.

Addressing the gathering, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala called on Nepal "to function as a grand family."

"Family and dynastic rules based on dictatorship do not last. Such a tradition of dynasty becomes the cause of discontent," he said, in what according to political analysts were indirect references to recent attacks by pro-monarchy elements on the country's multi-party system and NC government.

Koirala also criticised Nepal's bureaucracy as a conservative force, saying "When we evaluate the performance of the government, we also must take into account the fact that the government machinery that developed during the (previous) 30 years has not changed during during the past eight months."

Koirala's government came to power following the country's first free general election for 32 years in May 1991. He singled out Nepal's decline in productivity, increasing population, and inflation as matters of serious concern.

He urged all the leaders and rank and file members to make the convention a "sacred festival," saying, "we are not competing among ourselves for power and position, but we are competing in our efforts to build democracy."

In his speech, Bhattarai thanked all the countries which had extended their support for the movement for the restoration of democracy in Nepal in 1990.

He also reiterated his party's commitment to human rights, democracy and freedom.

NC Supreme Leader Ganesh Man Singh warned party cadres and leaders to be vigilant in protecting the hard-earned fruits of democracy against sinister plots aimed at bringing back repression and dictatorship.

Pakistan

AJK Head Urges UN Sanctions Against India

BK1302144092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] The prime minister of Azad [Jammu] Kashmir [AJK], Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, has called upon the UN Security Council to impose economic sanctions against India in order to force it to implement the UN resolutions on Kashmir. The AJK prime minister made the call while talking to newsmen in Muzaffarabad today.

Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan lauded the statement of the Prime Minister Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif regarding the Line of Control. He said the statement of Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif reflected the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The AJK prime minister said a thorough inquiry would be conducted about the incident which took place at Chinari yesterday while preventing the marchers from crossing the Line of Control. He contradicted the casualty figures given by BBC in yesterday's incident. He said three persons were killed and 19 injured. Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan said the situation is under control.

Senate Head on Kashmir Self-Determination

BK1302082892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] The Senate chairman, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, has pointed out that none of the governments in Pakistan had ever compromised on the right of self-determination of Kashmiris. He said this is an important issue and the senators can express their views during their speeches on the presidential address to the two houses of the parliament. He was reciprocating the feelings of some of the senators in the Senate this morning. The house also offered fateha [prayers] for those who lost their lives in Azad Kashmir yesterday during the march toward the

Line of Control. A number of senators expressed their views on the prevailing situation along the Line of Control.

Meanwhile, speaking on a point of order in the National Assembly today, the federal minister for food and agriculture, Lieutenant General Retired Majid Malik, said the world now has more sympathy for the Kashmiri struggle for their right of self determination and the march for the cross of the Line of Control would not have served the cause of freedom of Kashmir. He pointed out that delegations from other countries are visiting Azad Kashmir and they have spoken in support of the Kashmiris' right. The house offered fateha for those marchers who died yesterday and expressed sympathies for the injured.

UAE President Arrives on Visit

BK1302115292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] The UAE president, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, was given a very warm welcome when he arrived in Lahore this afternoon by a special plane to begin an official visit to Pakistan. Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif greeted the distinguished guest at the airport.

Russian-Uzbek Delegation Calls on Assembly Speaker

BK1202145692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] A five-member Russian-Uzbek delegation called on the speaker of National Assembly, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan, today. The speaker emphasized the need for friendly cooperation between Russian and Central Asian states. He said he was writing letters to the chairmen of their parliaments to send delegations to Pakistan to strengthen contacts between the parliaments of these countries.

The leader of the delegation expressed the view that release of POWs [prisoners of war] will usher in a new era of cordial relations between Pakistan and Russia.